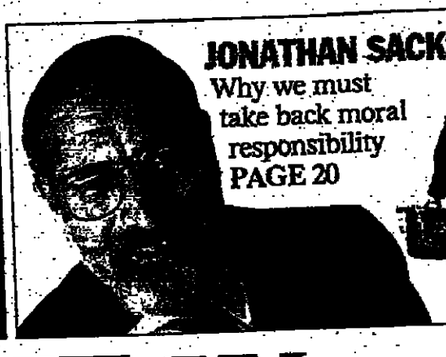
THE TIMES

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TODAY 10P



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Why we must take back moral responsibility
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A mother's stuggle to find a future
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FREE 20-PAGE SUPPLEMENT





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TODAY 10P

Warning on 'human clones'

Fears follow production of sheep from single cell

BY JEREMY LAURANCE AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

THE CHILLING prospect of a woman giving birth to an identical twin of her own father was raised by doctors yesterday after the announcement that scientists have for the first time succeeded in creating a clone of an adult animal.

Dolly, the Finn Dorset lamb who is the identical twin of her genetic mother, grazed contentedly on an experimental farm near Edinburgh while ethics experts warned she could be the harbinger of a scientific revolution in which animal life could be endlessly re-created without the need for sperm.

Doctors said the success of the scientists at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh, who have created an exact copy of an adult sheep from a cell in its udder, opened up the theoretical prospect of a world populated by identical clones of human beings.

However, the company which has bought the rights to the research, PPL Therapeutics, said the breakthrough would improve understanding of ageing and genetics and lead to the production of cheaper medicines.

The Roslin scientists, led by Dr Ian Wilmut, took the nucleus containing the genetic material from the mother sheep's udder cell and implanted it into another sheep's egg from which the genetic material had been removed. The resulting embryo was then placed in a third sheep, which acted as a surrogate mother, and Dolly was born seven months ago. Dolly's existence was disclosed for the first time yesterday and details of the experiment are to be published in *Nature* this week.

Dr Patrick Dixon, author of *The Genetic Revolution*, said the same technique could potentially be applied to human beings. "This is an historic event. It is without parallel in genetic advances. Almost any technique that can be done with a mammal can be done with a human. It will bring with it a huge number of ethical questions."

Dr Dixon said he had been asked by a woman last week how she could clone her father, who had died.

"She wants to bring him back to life as a baby, perhaps even carrying him in her own womb," he said. "After hearing of Dr Wilmut's progress, I sent her a message today to say it will be possible sooner than she thinks."

Cloning can produce an exact copy, or identical twin. The genetic material must be taken before death or shortly afterwards as freezing destroys the cells. Dr Dixon said people who might want to use the technique could include:

- ☐ People with serious illnesses such as leukaemia, who could produce an embryo "twin" for "spare part" transplant or transfusion purposes.
- ☐ Dictators who wish to produce carbon copies of themselves.
- ☐ Parents who fear they might lose a children to cot death and would produce an identical replacement as a precaution.
- ☐ Entertainment moguls wanting to recreate dead stars.

In Britian, research on human embryos which have been removed from the womb is controlled by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority and human cloning is banned. Suzanne McCarthy, the

Continued on page 2, col 1



Dolly is now 7 months old

SIMON WALKER



Vivienne Westwood, centre, with some of her teenage models during London Fashion Week at the Dorchester Hotel yesterday

Models of 13 on the catwalk

BY GRACE BRADBURY
STYLE EDITOR

VIVIENNE WESTWOOD, the doyenne of British fashion, opened London Fashion Week yesterday with her first show in the capital for eight years.

Lara Copcutt, a pupil at the Sylvia Young Theatre School in London, was one of two 13-year-olds in the show at the the Dorchester Hotel. She modelled a collection which included figure-hugging Lurex dresses, low-cut shirts and mini-skirted suits.

Westwood's use of such young girls has provoked fresh controversy about the alleged exploitation of teenagers by the fashion world. But Jean Copcutt, Lara's mother, defended her daughter's appearance. "If the girls enjoy it and are well-chaperoned I think it's okay. Lara didn't wear such sexy outfits as some of the other girls."

Westwood's return to London is just one element in the capital's resurgence as a major fashion city. This season there are a record 48 shows.

Kohl rival throws doubt on wisdom of rushing EMU

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

GERHARD SCHROEDER, the German Social Democrat most likely to challenge Helmut Kohl in next year's election, yesterday made his strongest ever commitment to delaying the introduction of European monetary union.

His comments — in an interview to be published today — came as an opinion pollshowed that 77 per cent of Germans now want to postpone the common currency until after 1999. "You have to be able to stop a train which is running in the wrong direction," Herr Schröder told *Der Spiegel* magazine, referring to the euro. "If Kohl wants to declare this subject taboo, then he is revealing a rather problematic attitude towards the democratic fabric of our society."

The interview will be seen as a way of making the future of the euro a major general election issue.

Finance Ministry experts, quoted by *Focus* magazine at the weekend, say that Germany's overall debt will rise from 60.5 per cent of gross domestic product to 61.5 per cent this year. The Maastricht treaty stipulates a maximum figure of 60 per cent and interpretative leeway is supposed to be granted only to those states which can show a consistent reduction; Germany's debt, however, has been climbing since 1991.

Economists are already doubting that Germany can stick to its promise of keeping its budget deficit down to 2.9 per cent of gross domestic product just within the Maastricht target of three per cent. Given unusually high unemployment figures so far this year, 4.66 million in January, and climbing, the deficit is likely to be well outside the entry target, unless a new savings plan is introduced.

These economic doubts have fuelled the movement for delaying EMU. Private bankers — though publicly still swearing loyalty to monetary union — are now beginning to consider EMU delay as a less disruptive course than allowing Italy and Spain to enter the club in 1999.

At the weekend the former Bundesbank member Wilhelm Nölling — a long standing opponent of EMU — urged postponement and said he would join others to take matters to the constitutional court if Bonn tried to push ahead with the project.

The court gave the go ahead to the Maastricht treaty only on condition that the entry criteria would be strictly applied and providing that each further step towards integration be monitored by the German parliament.

But the most potent opposition at present seems to come from Herr Schröder. Although the Social Democrats have yet to name their official rival to the Chancellor, popularity polls put Herr Schröder a clear five or six per cent ahead of the German leader. An opinion poll published at the weekend shows that 59 per cent of Germans want a greater role for Herr Schröder in the politics of the day, while only 45 per cent have the same hopes for Herr Kohl.

Delaying the common European currency said Herr Schröder would not destroy the project, nor would it create havoc in Europe. "For me, unlike Helmut Kohl, this is not a question of war and peace in Europe . . . a delay will not lead to the return of the nationalist problems of the 19th and early 20th centuries."

The Social Democrat — who is Prime Minister of Lower Saxony — thus deliberately echoed the words of Malcolm Rifkind, Foreign Secretary, who sparked controversy with a Bonn speech last week.

Herr Schröder stressed he was not against economic and monetary union as such, only against a weakening of the entry criteria. He was convinced that Germany would have to engage in creative accounting to stand a chance of making monetary union on the basis of its 1997 results.

George Brock, page 12

Clarke's doubts

Kenneth Clarke last night added his weight to Government scepticism over the launch of a single currency by saying that it was very unlikely to start on time. The Chancellor endorsed the Cabinet position that monetary union would have to be delayed because of the difficulties in meeting economic targets. After a week in which he and Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, were forced to deny allegations that they were split over the single currency, Mr Clarke was anxious to show unity.

Vegetables bred to beat cancer

Vegetables genetically engineered to give enhanced protection against cancer could soon be available. Broccoli and Brussels sprouts are particularly rich in "secondary compounds", called glucosinolates, many of which are toxic and appear to act as natural pesticides.....Page 2

Cricket ground row splits village

A village has been split by a squabble over the future of its cricket ground on land worth a potential £6 million. The committee of the Oatlands Park club, near Weybridge, Surrey, says that falling membership have left it with no choice but to sell to developers.....Page 3

Funeral ban on deposed leader

Zhao Ziyang, he former Chinese Communist Party chief deposed during the Tiananmen demonstrations in June 1989 for sympathising with student protesters, has been banned from attending the private cremation today of Deng Xiaoping.....Page 13

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MELVYN BRAGG in praise of public libraries
PLUS Ballot 97: welfare reform

TOMORROW



BIG IN BERLIN
Will British film conquer Germany?
PLUS Jonathan Sacks on the future of the family

WEDNESDAY



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Iain R Webb on a head start for spring
PLUS Nigella Lawson

THURSDAY



BEST FOR BOOKS
Peter Ackroyd on another Quest for Longitude
Martin Bell on Europe's Islamic heart
PLUS the week's new films

FRIDAY



THE BOYS ARE BACK
David Sinclair's verdict on U2's comeback album
PLUS The Valerie Grove interview and Matthew Parris

SATURDAY



FRENCH POLISH
Robert Crampton gets tongue tied with Juliette Binoche in the *Magazine*

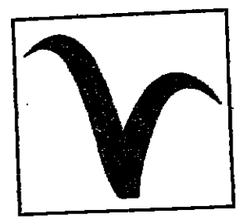
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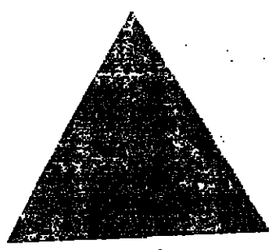
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New breakthroughs in genetic engineering raise complex ethical issues

Scientists serve up vegetables that give cancer protection

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

VEGETABLES genetically engineered to give enhanced protection against cancer could soon be available.

Nutritionists have long identified vegetables as a vital source of vitamins and minerals but in the past five years scientists have become excited about the cancer-fighting properties of other chemicals *in the plants previously seen* as harmful. Broccoli and Brussels sprouts are particularly rich in "secondary compounds", called glucosinolates, many of which are toxic and appear to act as natural pesticides, forming part of the plants' defences against herbivores.

Scientists believe human beings have become biologically adapted to many plant toxins *and that, far from suffering ill-*effects from eating them, would benefit from an increased intake.

Broccoli has high levels of a glucosinolate that breaks down into a substance called sulphoraphane, which has been found to have a powerful anti-cancer effect. Richard Mithen, a geneticist at the John Innes Centre in Norwich, said: "Sulphoraphanes stimulate our natural defences by switching on detoxification enzymes, causing them to move round the body in greater numbers, mopping up carcinogens before they can damage our cells and excreting them in urine."

Mr Mithen and his colleagues *have isolated DNA* material from broccoli containing the sulphoraphane-producing genes and have begun experimentally implanting it in cabbages. Human beings are constantly bombarded with carcinogens, also called oxidants, through their diet and from the environment, and any means of helping the body's defences to keep them at bay reduces the *risk of cancer.*

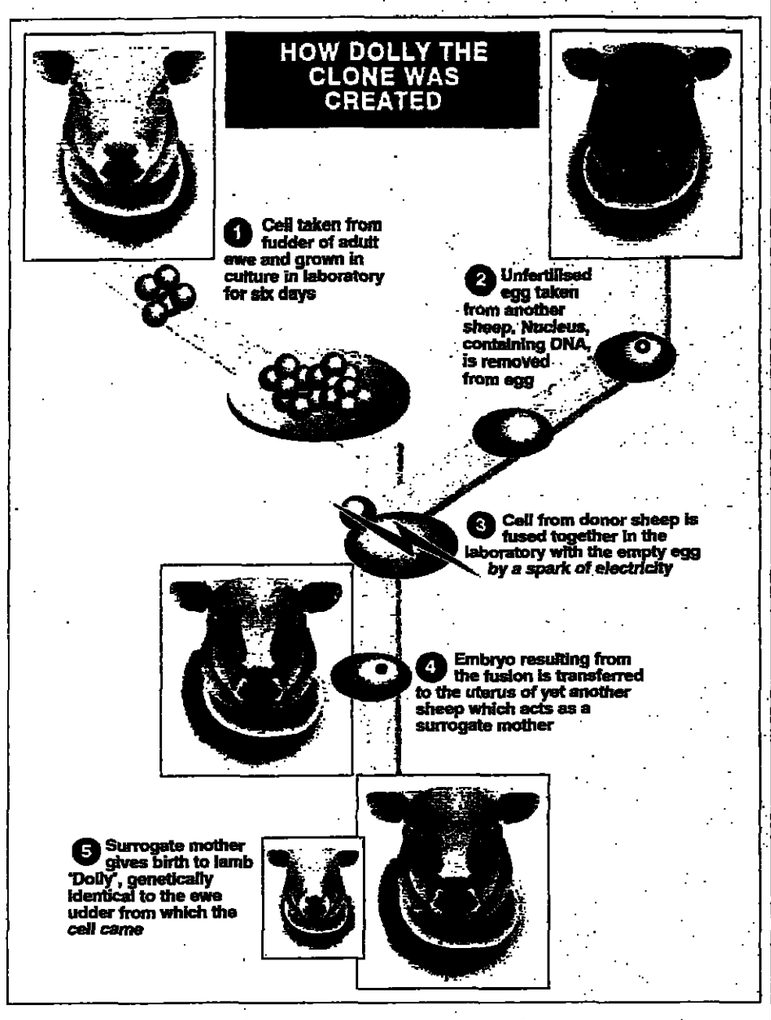
Gary Williamson, a senior biochemist at the Government's Institute of Food Research, also in Norwich, is studying how sulphoraphanes work. "We still do not know the optimum amount of sulphoraphanes that are beneficial or the precise effect they have," he said. "Dutch scientists have shown that people eating Brussel sprouts, which also have high levels of these compounds, suffer significantly less DNA damage than people on a sprout-free diet. That is a good indicator of a reduced cancer risk."

Brussel sprouts also contain another glucosinolate, called sinigrin. This has been found *to have a different kind of anti-*cancer effect, suppressing the growth of pre-cancerous cells that have become damaged in some way and may develop into full-blown tumours.

In theory, compounds such as sinigrin and sulphoraphane could be extracted and put in pills, in the same way as vitamin supplements. But scientists are reluctant to go down that path.

"*We do not want to encour-*age a pill culture, and anyway there are many other valuable compounds which you get from eating vegetables," Mr Mithen says.

At present scientists also plan to restrict the transfer of sulphoraphane-producing genes to vegetables within the brassica family.



Scientists sound warning on 'human clones'

Continued from page 1

chief executive, said: "You can't do human cloning in the UK. Anyone who wanted to do research on this would have to be licensed by us."

However, controls in other countries are more lax. In America there are no laws regulating embryo research, which is controlled by local hospital ethics committees.

Dr Richard Nicholson, editor of the *Bulletin of Medical Ethics*, said the development brought the scenario outlined *in the film Boys from Brazil*, in which clones of Hitler are made, a step nearer.

"Cloning humans might not be a risk in this country but if the details of the scientific research are published they could be picked up and used elsewhere. If some dictator somewhere decides it could help him he might just get a scientist to do it."

However, Lord Winston, the Labour peer and director of the *in vitro* fertilisation programme at Hammersmith hospital dismissed such warnings as "fatuous" and a slur on other countries.

"It is a ridiculous argument," he said. "There is no medical reason for cloning humans and there are obvious risks. It is clear from other *experiments that transfer* of genetic material is not wholly safe. I don't think anyone seriously believes there would be any benefit to cloning humans."

Dr Wilmut acknowledged that the cloning of adult humans was potentially possible but ethically unacceptable. "In the case of parents who have lost a child, they would not be recreating the same child, but an identical twin," he said. "It is an illusion to think otherwise, and desperately sad to think that people may be induced to believe it is possible to bring their dead child back.

"We are aware that there is potential for misuse, and we have provided information to ethicists and the Human Embryology Authority. We believe that it is important that society decides how we want to use this technology and makes sure it prohibits what it wants to prohibit."

He dismissed the possibility of Jurassic Park-style cloning from the frozen tissue of dead people or animals as "completely fanciful".

"Putting a person into a freezer wrecks the cells. There is absolutely no way that we can clone from a frozen animal or human," he said.

The Roslin Institute made headlines round the world a year ago when it produced two lambs, Morag and Megan, which were genetically identical, using the same technique.

On that occasion, the two lambs were clones of an *embryo from which immature* cells had been taken — that is, cells which had not begun to differentiate into the muscle, heart and brain cells found in adult animals.

It had been thought that adult cells which were differentiated could not be used in cloning because it would be impossible for embryos derived from them to grow and be brought successfully to term.

This has now been shown to be wrong by the Roslin experiment. The report in *Nature* says it is now possible "by inducing donor cells to become quiescent to obtain normal development from a wide variety of differentiated cells".

Scientists have already bred sheep which produce proteins *in their milk* that can be used as medicines such as the blood-clotting factor lacked by haemophiliacs. But it is a laborious and inefficient process and the use of cloning would make it quicker and cheaper.



"Little Bo Peep has lost her sheep, and doesn't know where to find them; give her a clone and she'll come home, with identical ones behind her"

Rifkind raises Tory cash on trip to Far East

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MALCOLM RIFKIND, the Foreign Secretary, used an official visit to Hong Kong to raise funds for the Tory party at one of the most exclusive hotels in the world. Labour plans to refer the incident to the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life.

For the second time in 12 months, Mr Rifkind took time off from government business to attend a cocktail party for Tory-voting expatriates. His attendance at a party political fund-raising function during a publicly-funded ministerial trip will put the Tories' refusal to disclose their sources of financial support back on the political agenda. The disclosure came as it emerged that plans for Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, to visit the colony have been shelved.

Tory strategists feared that a visit by Dr Mawhinney, who has no departmental brief relating to Hong Kong, would be a mistake. He would have been exposed to the charge that he went solely to raise funds for the general election campaign.

Hong Kong has been a valued source of funds for the Tory party, whose £11.4 million overdraft was cleared last summer in 15 months, moving *the party into the black for the* first time in a decade. The Tories will have spent £20 million in the 12 months up to polling day, with £5 million alone on the current poster campaign.

Mr Rifkind's reception last Sunday was organised by the Hong Kong branch of Conservatives Abroad, which is the most effective overseas fund-raising arm of Conservative Central Office. He flew on to Hong Kong with a small retinue of officials after attending a conference in Singapore.

The Foreign Secretary cut short the visit to fly back to Britain for the House of Commons censure debate on Douglas Hogg. His attendance at the cocktail party in the Mandarin Hotel has put him in potential conflict with strict civil service rules on ministerial conduct.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Released men 'need urgent care'

Urgent medical care is needed for the Bridgewater Three, whose psychiatric condition has deteriorated since their release, their lawyer said yesterday. Jim Nichol said he will demand an immediate £50,000 payment to fund psychiatric help for Vincent Hickey, his cousin Michael, and James Robinson.

Meanwhile, it has emerged that Michael Hickey and Mr Robinson could lose at least £100,000 each in compensation because they admitted armed robbery at the time of the Bridgewater murder trial. They were each given lengthy prison terms to run alongside their life sentences.

Graham Leeke, one of the police officers allegedly involved *in concocting* a false statement, said he hoped to issue a statement today.

Hostages freed

A kidnapped British scientist was waiting yesterday to be airlifted out of the Amazon jungle in Ecuador after an Indian tribe agreed to release him after a deal with his oil company employers. Heavy rain prevented an aircraft being sent to a clearing in the rainforest to fly Yvor Read to safety. Mr Read and fellow hostage Mario Hurtner, an American, were seized a week ago. They are thought to be well, the Foreign Office said.

Gay 'marriages'

John Bowis, a Transport *Minister, has called for* homosexual couples to be allowed to enter into a legal contract akin to marriage. Speaking on Radio 5 Live's gay programme *Out This Week*, he said he would like to see a partnership law that would provide stability to gay couples committed to a relationship. "It may be that if one is able to achieve some sort of legal contract that would provide a stability," he said.

Son to be absent

The father of Sean O'Callaghan, the IRA man who became an informer, will be given a paramilitary funeral in Co Kerry today in the absence of his son who was shunned by his republican family after he turned against the terrorists. Jack O'Callaghan, 78, a life-long supporter of the IRA who said that his son's actions had "broken his heart", will be buried in his home town of Tralee. *Sean O'Callaghan was re-*leased from jail last year.

Lottery rejection

Virginia Bottomley said she would reject any plan by *Camelot to sell National Lot-*tery tickets abroad, because the sales could not be properly regulated by Oflot. The National Heritage Secretary said the move would be blocked by Peter Davis, the Oflot director-general. "The regulator wouldn't be able to ensure propriety, he wouldn't be able to ensure, above all, that the players are protected," she told GMTV's *Sunday* programme.

Film-maker dies

Frank Launder, who wrote, directed and produced some of the most popular films in *the heyday of British cinema*, died yesterday, aged 91. He was best known for his collaboration with Sidney Gilliat on the St Trinian's comedies and such films as *Millions Like Us, Waterloo Road* and *The Rake's Progress*. Launder died in the Princess Grace Hospital, Monaco, near his home at Cap D'Ail in the South of France. Obituary, page 23

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Tories block proposals for quarantine reform

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS have dropped plans to commit a Tory Government to abolishing current quarantine laws and allowing pet-owners to bring their animals into Britain without a six-month safety period.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, blocked plans to promise wide-ranging reform, arguing that the move could become a liability among voters *worried that relaxing the* rules would increase the threat of rabies.

Ministers have agreed instead to include in the manifesto only a commitment to consult on the issue soon after the election.

The change is a personal disappointment to Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, who had hoped to consult before the election and put forward more definite manifesto proposals. He has argued that the six-month *quarantine period is causing* people to smuggle their pets into Britain, and that scientific advances now enable same-day rabies checks to be made on pets.

However, Mr Howard was adamant that the proposals should be deferred. Supported by Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, he gave a warning that a firm pledge could prove unpopular, particularly in seats containing ports, such as his own Folkestone constituency.

Ministers have drawn back from making a firm commitment to extend nationally the compulsory workfare-style scheme to find jobs for the long-term unemployed. Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, had pressed for a firm commitment to extend the pilot Project Work scheme nationwide to include 600,000 people out of work for two years.

However, Treasury worries over the cost of the scheme and fears from other ministers that it was not a proven success will lead to the manifesto pledge being watered down.

Instead, the pilot project, which will be extended today to include 100,000 people, will only turned into a national scheme if it proves to be cost-effective.

Heath rejects party line on devolution

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

SIR EDWARD HEATH yesterday rebutted John Major's campaign against devolution and supported the introduction of a minimum wage.

Sir Edward said that he continued to support the idea of a Scottish assembly, which the Tories had supported while he was party leader. Devolution posed "no danger to the unity of the United Kingdom", the former Prime Minister told BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost*.

He accused *the Tory* Eurosceptics of really wanting Britain to leave the European Union, "but they're not honest enough yet to say so".

"The purpose of the minimum wage is to avoid sweated labour and quite rightly so," he said.

The Tory Right's ferocious response emphasised the strains in the party as the general election approaches.

Lewis opens fire again on Howard

BY RICHARD FORD

Michael Howard is today accused by his former prisons chief of making repeated interventions in the running of jails in England and Wales.

Derek Lewis, the dismissed former director general, describes Mr Howard as a man consumed by political ambition and "driven hither and thither" by the breezes of media and public opinion.

"He is preoccupied with tactics to the exclusion of strategy, and at times appears to be cutting his suit to fit the political cloth just a little too finely," the former director general says.

Mr Howard is accused of making an abortive attempt to move Private Lee Clegg, jailed for life for killing a civilian in Northern Ireland, to an open prison for political advantage. He also wanted the Army called in to deal with a riot in a jail and demanded a hot line linking his office to the Prison Service Unit overseeing disturbances.



Lewis: book published

"The last thing we needed was an untrained home secretary trying to direct incidents. *He still does not have it,*" Mr Lewis says in a book, *Hidden Agendas*, published today.

Mr Lewis also gives his impression of some of the most notorious prisoners held *in the 135 jails in England and* Wales.

He met Myra Hindley, the Moors Murderer, when she was held at Cookham Wood prison and found her "intelligent *articulate* and well balanced, a far cry from the sort of person one might imagine to have been involved in horrific child murders".

Mr Lewis joined the Prison Service in 1992 but was sacked by the home secretary in October after the Learmont report into the escape of inmates from Parkhurst jail. Mr Howard had expected the former director-general to go quietly but he fought a public battle and won more than £280,000 from the Home Office over his dismissal.

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Locals accuse struggling club of plotting to sell picturesque home for development after 130 years

Village battles over £6m threat to cricket ground

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

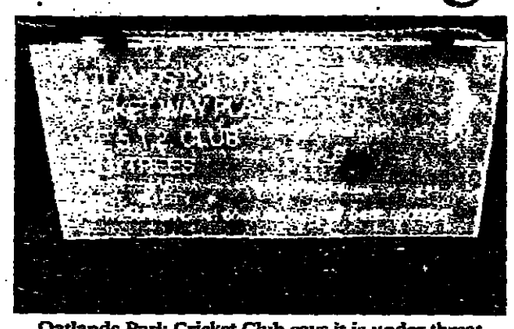
A VILLAGE has been split by a squabble over the future of a village cricket ground on land potentially worth £6 million.

The committee of the 130-year-old Oatlands Park Cricket Club, near Weybridge, Surrey, claims falling membership levels have left it with no choice but to propose dissolving the organisation and selling the six-acre playing fields to building developers McAlpine. But others say the estimated 130 members who own it stand to benefit if the developers update their 1988 bid of £4.3 million to build 30 houses on the site.

A secret letter from the club to all members confirms that the best offer from developers will be discussed at a special meeting at the nearby Cobham Hilton on March 2. Ken Sanger, 48, a director of a freight forwarding company who lives nearby, said the club's founders would have been disgusted to see it closed.

"I think it is a place of great charm and beauty. It's lovely to hear the sound of bat on ball in the garden on a Sunday afternoon.

What the club members get for their membership is up to them. I wouldn't like it if someone tried to intervene in my tennis club, but I really don't think they should be able to sell it for development. If it has to go it should remain a sports ground." Ian Porter, 50, a company director whose £300,000 house, The Wickets, adjoins the club, said residents had little doubt of the club's intentions. "I moved here a year ago and tried to become a non-playing member but it was pretty obvious they didn't want me," he said.



Oatlands Park Cricket Club says it is under threat from falling membership and is considering closure

"In August I telephoned the president, Peter Johnson, and offered to buy a piece of land from them, which would have helped out their funds without any shadow of doubt, and I never even had my calls returned. My view is that they want to capitalise on it. They are not even giving the local residents a chance to help them, and, let's face it, there's a few bob around here.

"Many of us would help out. I didn't buy this house next to some green and pleasant land for a lot of money to see a lot of houses put up on it. No-one did." The club itself is surrounded by comfortable detached houses whose owners use the grounds to walk their dogs and let their children play safely on their bicycles.

The club groundsman yesterday accused locals of failing to help out over the past few years, when declining membership levels made it become just the second club in 29 years to withdraw from the Surrey Championship. However Oatland Park's honorary secretary, Dominic Harrison, refused to respond to accusations that members had been required to leave and that others were refused permission to join. He insisted the club's future would be decided by its members alone.

"Our situation is crystal clear. This is a private club and any considerations concerning it are for the members. It would be totally inappropriate for me to comment before the meeting on March 2.

"Everything that has been reported hitherto has been rather one-sided. I have personal opinions but none of them is relevant today and they will not be relevant next Sunday. Matters concerning the club are for the members' consideration only."

A local group, the "Friends of Oatlands", organised by residents Terry King and Mr Sanger, circulated a petition opposing redevelopment. It also sent a letter to cricket club members urging them to vote against the plans. "130 years ago the Founder Members of OPCC would have been proud to know that their club would still be going in 1997. Please make sure that members in 130 years time will be proud of you on March 2 by not dissolving the club and not redeveloping the land," the letter read.

In the letter to club members two months ago signed by the president, Peter Johnson, and chairman, Peter Silcock, proposed dissolving the club. Urging all members to "limit discussion of the club's position to members and others in whose discretion you have confidence", they blamed social and demographic reasons for a declining playing membership that meant Oatlands Park "has virtually ceased to exist as a club". The letter, dated December 4 1996, continued: "The committee thought it sensible to have some preliminary discussions with land agents. We are advised that there would be considerable interest in our site. A number of prospective bidders have therefore been asked to submit draft proposals, the best of which will be selected and put forward to the members for consideration at the first EGM."

GEORGE CRANE



The ground could be sold to developers, say worried residents, who call it "a place of great charm and beauty"

Chris Fuke, results secretary of the Surrey Championship, confirmed Oatlands Park withdrew from the league late last year. "I know that some of the players are very disappointed about it. It is not as strong as other clubs in the area but it is by no means the weakest team in the league. They have always fulfilled all their fixtures and they do not have a reputation for letting other clubs down. I hope things work out favourably for them in the end," he said.

Pilots to get a back-seat driver for safety's sake

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

FAMILY back-seat drivers will shortly be nagging aircraft pilots to to alert them to danger. Psychologists have found that the voice of a wife, mother or girlfriend is the most effective way of conveying warnings to helicopter crews, fighter pilots and airline captains.

An electronics company is offering to use them to replace the anonymous female voices that deliver warnings in the USAF's "Top Gun" F16s, many RAF aircraft and North Sea helicopter flights.

When voice-warning systems were originally recorded a decade ago, the Defence Research Establishment at Farnborough in Hampshire found that women's voices commanded more immediate attention. The sound of a woman's voice, it was argued, made male pilots promptly sit up and take notice.

In 1987 only 8 per cent of air traffic controllers were women, but since 1990 more than a fifth of the 950 controllers recruited by the Civil Aviation Authority alone have been women, and the number of women pilots has doubled in the last five years.

With female voices now routinely heard in pilots' headsets, it is feared that men are becoming too accustomed to them and apt to pay them scant respect. Scientists have found, though, that the disembodied voice of a mother, wife or girl friend can still command respect, and grab the pilot's attention to alert him to dangers or technical hazards.

The British electronics company Racal is accordingly offering to install a personalised voice-warning system as "back-seat driver" in military and civilian aircraft all over the world.

The system records the voice the individual customer thinks would command most attention so that it can then be fed into the aircraft's electronic warning systems before the pilot takes off. The recorded messages vary from friendly advice to "check your height" to urgent commands such as "land at once".

"The recordings are made in a studio and the tone of voice and urgency can be varied according to the degree of pilot error or the potential danger," a Racal spokesman said yesterday. "Where helicopters or small jets fly low, or private pilots need to be shaken into paying immediate attention, the wife's voice is likely to be perfect for the job."

Dr Julie Edworthy of Plymouth University said: "What is important is to find a balance between habituation and so shocking the pilot that he overreacts. A wife's voice would certainly get his attention because she would be the person he would least expect to hear while he was flying. Whether it is ethical to use the wife's influence in that way remains to be decided."

Pupils 'put on bail' for kissing

BY JOANNA BALE

TWO sixth-form pupils at a public school have been put on £500 "bail" by their headmaster after being caught kissing in a corridor. The boy and girl agreed to the "good behaviour bond" as an alternative to being expelled from Dean Close School, Cheltenham.

The headmaster, Christopher Bacon, said that at the time, the two were on final warnings after an earlier incident: "They were caught in a minor incident of a private nature and I am not prepared to divulge what happened.

"A compassionate alternative to excluding them was to put them on caution money, which is a deposit for their good behaviour. They will get it back at the end of their time here if they behave themselves. It is like being on bail."

Mr Bacon said that he had imposed a bond about a dozen times on pupils in the past 20 years. The school, founded in 1886, takes boarders and day pupils. Fees are up to £12,000 a year.

One mother, who declined to be named, said: "I don't agree with this action. The school is stopping them behaving like normal youngsters. They were not doing anything disruptive or immoral as far as I can understand.

"Dean Close used to be single-sex, and no one wants it to return to those days, but if you are going to have girls in the school, things like this are bound to happen."

A daily pint can keep the inches at bay, says scientist

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

BEER has been unfairly blamed for increasing the girth of generations of drinkers, an expert in analytical chemistry claims.

The merits of beer have been missed because of its undeserved association with large, pot-bellied men propping up bars. A pint a day could even be the basis of a weight-loss diet, Professor David Williams of the University of Wales, Cardiff, says.

Beer is a "complete food" and its health benefits outweigh its dangers, he says. All the evidence was that those who drink moderate amounts live longer.

The large abdomens developed by some heavy drinkers were not attributable to beer itself but reflected the effect of alcohol as an appetite stimulant and as an anaesthetic. "Alcohol numbs your stomach, so you can't always tell when it is full," Professor Williams says.

For most people even the effect of the appetite stimulus was offset by the carbon dioxide in beer, which encourages drinkers to take small quantities of food with pauses in between. Carbonated drinks also aid digestion by promoting acid production in the stomach and stimulating blood flow.



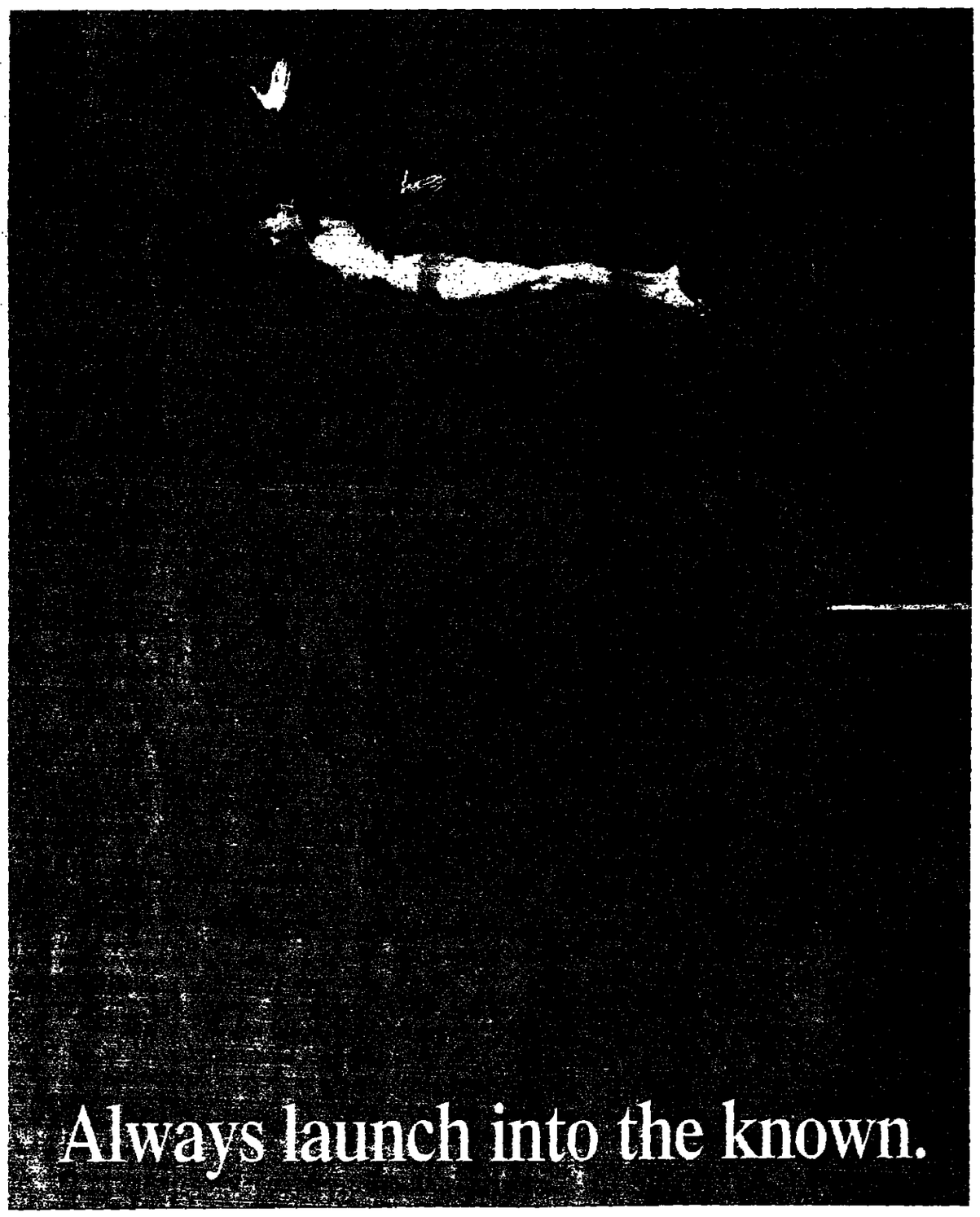
Fat-bellied despite being beer drinkers

Beer contains no fat whatever and no sugar, but worthwhile amounts of carbohydrate, protein and vitamins. It is 93 per cent water, providing an important source of the four pints of water a day required by the average person. It is healthier than soft drinks because it does not rot the teeth and contains low levels of additives and other contaminants, which are soaked up by the yeast used in fermentation and then discarded.

Writing in *Chemistry in Britain*, Professor Williams calls for an end to some of the myths surrounding a beverage which people have made and consumed since about 3,500 BC. As well as providing the right nutrition, beer has a relaxing effect that helps to reduce stress.

"When used as part of a balanced diet, beer is beneficial for human health and the infrequent mishap resulting from a little over-indulgence is no reason to brand beer as contrary to our wellbeing."

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Birthday in jail for veteran grammar schools campaigner



Sibley: refuses to pay her council taxes

THE nation's doughtiest grammar school campaigner yesterday celebrated her 74th birthday in a cell at Holloway prison.

Joan Sibley received a visit from her husband Kenneth, 71. Holloway has become familiar to Mrs Sibley during a 27-year-battle with a local authority that failed to provide their children with a grammar school education.

Mrs Sibley is serving a 90-day sentence for failing to pay council tax. This is the latest chapter in a story that her husband says will probably be resolved only when they are both in their graves.

Although their children are well into their thirties, and the walls of the Sibleys' home in Luton is covered with photographs of school-age grandchildren, the couple are fighting for what they believe is a principle.

The struggle, which has led to four prison terms for Mrs Sibley and three for her husband, a retired British Aerospace engineer, started in the early 1970s when their daughters reached secondary school age. With no grammar school available, the Sibleys withdrew their children from school and did what they could to educate them at home.

Mr Sibley said: "We wanted selective education for our children. Luton's policy was to have non-selective education. We wanted our children to be with able pupils and to study certain subjects. For example, I learnt Latin at school in Windsor and I wanted my children to have the opportunity do the same."

■ Their children now have children of their own, but a couple's campaign for the principle of selective education continues, as Damian Whitworth reports

After two years, Mr Sibley's failure to send his children to school earned him a week in prison and resulted in his daughters spending time in care. The publicity attracted a benefactor who paid for the girls to attend a public school. When the Sibleys' son Duncan reached the same stage he, too, was withdrawn from school.

According to his parents, when Duncan was taken into care he was treated as though he were maladjusted. As the Sibleys prepared to sell their home to pay school fees, again a benefactor sent the boy to boarding school in Norfolk.

The two girls went on to get degrees. Vanessa, 38, is married with three children and teaches English in Central America. Melanie, 37, is a personal assistant. Duncan, 33, is a BMW salesman.

With the end of the children's education, the Sibleys' battle was only just beginning. In 1989 the couple decided to stop paying local taxes, arguing that the local authority had failed to provide an education for their children and that their reputations and those of their children had been damaged by the periods in care and court battles.

"The local authorities had a duty of care and they failed in that duty. We wanted recognition that we had been damaged by Luton," Mr Sibley said. "After our fourth petition to Parliament failed, we decided we were not prepared to pay them any taxes whatsoever and will not do so in the future."

Duncan Sibley said: "They acted in our best interest and there is a point of principle here. If Mum and Dad were like the average people in their seventies, I would be concerned. But they are both physically and mentally very active. This will not be detrimental to Mum."

Luton Borough Council said: "We are bound by law to collect council tax from everybody in the borough. We go to court only as a matter of last resort because we would much rather come to an arrangement for repayment.

"Unfortunately, in spite of our efforts, every year payment has been refused and therefore we have been forced to refer the matter to the magistrates' court. Here, the process of law takes over. But even then, imprisonment is a matter of last resort for the magistrates."

Mr Sibley said: "We are angered, not bitter. The bitterness has faded into the background. This is a matter of principle and we are not going to be pushed around by anyone. There will be no surrender. This looks like a coffin job."

Restaurateur and family die as fire sweeps flat

BY JOANNA BALE

A COUPLE and their three young children died yesterday morning when fire destroyed their second-floor flat above their Indian restaurant.

Shaghan Miah, 41, his wife Rukshana Akther, 25, and their three children Mishkatath, 4, Shamir, 17 months, and Mary, two months, were killed when the blaze swept through their home in Palmers Green, north London, just after 7am.

Two men who lived in the first floor flat, where the fire is believed to have started accidentally, escaped and raised the alarm. Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus rescued the three children and attempts were made to resuscitate them, but they were pronounced dead on arrival at hospital.

Because of the intense heat and smoke, the firefighters were unable to get to Mr Miah and his wife and their bodies remained in the flat yesterday while fire officers investigated the cause of the blaze.

Mr Miah, believed to be of Bangladeshi origin, was co-owner of Dipali Tandoori restaurant, had lived in the area for more than 20 years. Neighbours said that he and his second wife had been married for about seven years and their youngest daughter had been born on Christmas Day.

Jit Kapur, who owns a neighbouring post office, said: "They were a very friendly, cheerful family who were popular members of the community. I am absolutely stunned and it is very hard to take in what has happened.

"Their eldest daughter, who was known as Holly, was a lovely, bubbly child who had just started going to a local playgroup. Mr Miah was a very generous man. At Christmas he toured the West End of London delivering 200 meals to the homeless."

Mr Miah recently donated £1,000 to a polio charity after an appeal by a local Rotary club. He was a supporter of Southgate Cricket Club and sponsored the Saracens Rugby Club.

A fire brigade spokesman said: "This has been a terrible tragedy. The fire appears to have started in the first-floor flat above the restaurant and spread into the second floor. At this stage we are not treating it as suspicious."

It was not possible to say whether there were smoke alarms in the building because of the amount of damage, said the spokesman.

In 1994 a businessman, George Abraham, who was a regular customer, missed his favourite curries so much that he spent £750 to fly from his Moscow base for a meal at the Dipali restaurant. Later he paid £300 to have his ten favourite curries flown to Russia.

ANTHONY UPTON



A distraught cousin of the dead family arriving at the scene of the fire yesterday in which Rukshana Akther, below, died with her husband and children. Her daughter Mishkatath is pictured holding baby Shamir





Legal aid given to sue ministry over CJD cases

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

FAMILIES who believe that the deaths of their relatives from CJD was the result of exposure to BSE-infected meat have been granted legal aid to pursue compensation claims against the Government.

Seven potential claims have been lodged with legal aid authorities, out of the 15 cases where young people have died of the new variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease which, it is thought, could be linked to "mad cow" disease. Legal aid certificates to investigate the claims have been granted in four cases, with decisions expected on the others shortly. The claims, which would be brought against the Ministry of Agriculture and possibly the Department of Health, are being co-ordinated.

MPs will today call for no-fault compensation for victims of CJD, whether their condition is linked to BSE or with having taken growth hormone. David Hinchliffe, Labour MP for Wakefield, has obtained an adjournment debate in which MPs of all parties are expected to urge the Government to set up a compensation scheme for CJD victims that does not require families to go to court to prove negligence by the Government.

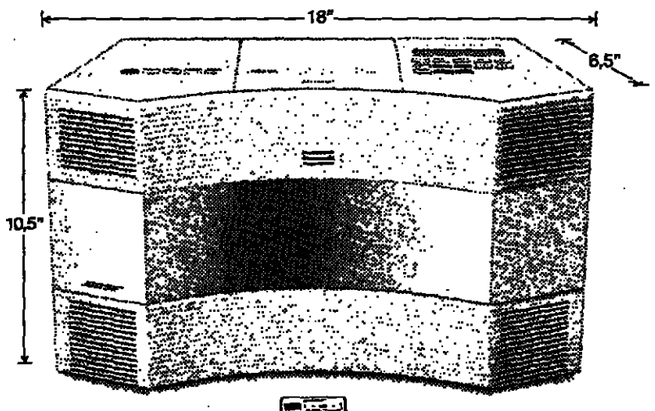
The claims alleging links with BSE are being co-ordinated by David Body, a solicitor with the Sheffield-based firm Irwin Mitchell, which has handled litigation over victims of CJD caused by growth hormone. Mr Body said yesterday that the relatives would pursue litigation if need be. But they were insisting on a full public inquiry chaired by a High Court judge, with adequate administrative support and powers to compel that witnesses attend and documents be disclosed.

Families, he said, should be compensated without having to go to court to prove negligence. "The Government has conceded the principle of no-fault compensation in that it has paid more than £1 billion in compensation to the livestock industry for loss of cattle to BSE, even though no finding of fault has been made against the Ministry of Agriculture by any livestock farmer. We need to move from livestock to lives and compensation for people as well as animals."

A judicial inquiry, he added, would be far less costly than providing public funds for legal aid to support litigation. "A government inquiry would satisfy everyone involved: the relatives of victims, the livestock industry, the animal food industry and the rendering industry," he said. "Above all, it would help restore public confidence."

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BALLOT 97

THE TIMES GUIDE TO ELECTION ISSUES

6. Welfare reform

Providing a fair deal at an affordable price

ASK people what issues will determine their vote at the next election, and they are likely to mention the public-service end of the welfare state — health and education — rather than the benefit system. Yet social security will be critical at this election for two reasons.

First, the social security bill now costs each working adult £15 per working day. It accounts for nearly a third of government spending and, until recently, has been growing faster than the economy's ability to pay for it. So each time that politicians talk about cutting taxes or holding down public spending, voters should ask whether they have thought of ways of restricting the growth in the largest single element of public expenditure, social security. Welfare reform is the flipside of tax cuts. And even if it does not feature prominently on the hustings, it will have to be high on the list of any incoming government's priorities. Whichever party wins will have to tackle the costs of welfare, but neither wants to shout about it. Any reform is likely to hit the pockets of the middle classes, whose votes they so assiduously court.

Since today's welfare state was created, just after the war, social security spending has risen eightfold in real terms. Even though the economy has also grown fast, spending on benefits as a percentage of national income has risen even faster: from 4.7 per cent in 1949-50 to 12.1 per cent now.

The factors driving this growth are demographic (more old people living for longer); social (family breakdown and more lone parents); and economic (higher unemployment). Government policy too has played a part: instead of building council houses for the poor, a bill paid by the Department of the Environment, the Government has preferred to pay them housing benefit, a cost met by the Department for Social Security.

Since none of these pressures is likely to diminish, and since the public is unwilling to pay higher taxes to cover them, the big question is which party is most likely to be successful at reining in the growth of social security without forcing people into destitution or hugely increasing the numbers of the poor. The Tories claim that they are the instinctive tax and spending cutters, while Labour is in hock to the poverty lobby. Yet

THE POLITICS

Tony Blair has made welfare reform one of his top stated priorities for government.

Mr Blair claims that, like Nixon visiting China, only a party of the Left can be trusted to take on the welfare state. It is certainly true that other, modern-thinking left-wing governments in countries such as America, New Zealand and Australia have made bold reforms to social security. Throughout the Anglo-Saxon world, socialists and their successors have moved in the past decade from backing higher benefit payouts to wanting to help people off welfare altogether. "A hand-up, not a hand-out" is now a well-used phrase.

The Labour Party's journey from hand-out to hand-up has been conducted under Mr Blair. At the last general election, its biggest spending pledge was to increase child benefit and pensions, paid for by raising taxes on the rich and not so rich. Because the poor comprised mainly families with children and the old, this was thought to be a "socially just" and efficient way of tackling poverty.

Now there is no talk from Labour of raising the level of benefits, least of all "universal" ones such as child benefit and pensions, to which the rich are also entitled. Instead, the catchphrase is "welfare-to-work". Labour promises to spend the proceeds of its windfall tax on the utilities on helping 250,000 young and long-term unemployed off the dole and back into work.

The young will be offered a choice of four opportunities: a private-sector job with subsidy paid to the employer; education or training; a place on an environmental task force; or a job with a voluntary organisation. Critically, if they refuse all of these, they surrender 40 per cent of their benefit. "Rights and responsibilities" is the other tough slogan.

Labour also wants to get lone parents with school-age children back to work and is promising to increase the network of after-school and holiday clubs to solve the parents' childcare problem.

The Conservatives are concerned about social security spending too. Peter Lilley has reformed the system in a piecemeal way (see below), which together should save £6 billion a year by 2000 and £15 billion by 2020. Opposition to these changes has been token; Labour has privately been content to let the Tories do such dirty work.

Would another Conservative term deliver reform on the same scale as Labour? So far, recent Tory policies have been similar to those of Labour — a "workfare" scheme here, a project for lone parents there — but they have mainly been in the form of pilots and the "workfare" is expected to be self-financing. Labour, it seems, might devote more energy and money to the problem.

So there is a choice. A Labour government could be hampered by the Left and its associated lobbies, but it would have welfare reform as one of its flagship policies. A Tory government would have more freedom for manoeuvre but possibly less momentum.

Tories have changed the benefit balance

THE RECORD

WHAT is the measure of success when judging a government's record on social security? Should it be the extent to which ministers have curbed the growth in spending? Or should it be whether poverty has been alleviated?

The purpose of social security, after all, is to ensure that those who cannot work do not starve or freeze. It is a sign of a developed or civilised society that the least fortunate are not allowed to become destitute. And as well as redistributing money from the rich to the poor, social security acts as a savings bank over people's lifetime: they put money into the system when they are earning and withdraw it when they are not, either because they are retired, disabled, looking after children on their own, or unemployed.

The problem for any government is that the budget is "demand-led" — that is, anyone who is eligible for a benefit can claim it. This means that the Treasury cannot limit the total spending: and if unemployment rises faster than expected, or the rate of divorce increases, then the social security budget can balloon out of control.

Labour's chief charge against the Conservatives' public spending record is that expenditure on areas such as education has suffered at the expense of increases in social security or "rescue" spending. It is certainly true that the social security bill has increased hugely in the 18 years of Tory rule — by 85 per cent in real terms (see chart). But the Tories could justifiably claim that, had it not been for their policies, the bill would be larger still today.

By far the biggest change to the system that the Conservatives have made in the past 18 years has been to link benefits broadly to prices rather than earnings. The savings will amount to £8.6 billion a year by 1997-98. Had the state pension continued to be pegged to earnings, it would be worth £23.50 a week more. But pensioners are richer now because of their own savings and second pensions.

The result of price-linking is that benefits are now much more "targeted" — that is, they are aimed more at the poor. The basic state pension is so low that those pensioners who have no other income have to be topped up with income support, a means-tested benefit. Child benefit too has been raised only in line with prices (and between 1988 and 1990 it was frozen).

Pensions and child benefit are the two main "universal" benefits, which go to rich and poor alike. Because they are being allowed to constitute an ever smaller share of income, in the long run, they will wither on the vine. Indeed, Michael Portillo has already warned the under-40s that the state pension they can expect will be "nugatory".

This change has had two effects. First, it has made the social security system far more progressive: that is, it takes more money from the rich and gives it to the poor. It is now less of an insurance system, to which people pay premiums to get money back later. Those on above-average incomes will pay in far more than they will receive, unless they suddenly fall on hard times. More than ever, the benefit system now relies on altruism rather than self-interest.

The price-linking of benefits has also contributed to income inequality (see chart). Although the income of the bottom 10 per cent of the population has not fallen in real terms, the average income has risen by 39 per cent and top incomes by 59 per cent, leaving the poor further behind in relative terms. On the other hand, the poorest 10 per cent are hardly destitute: 85 per cent own a freezer, 76 per cent have a telephone and 74 per cent have central heating.

The people at the bottom of income distribution now are not necessarily the same as those in 1979. Because of the increasing spread of second pensions, there are fewer elderly people, but there are far more young unemployed and more families with young children. The changes in benefit rules since 1979 have deliberately penalised young people, who are thought to have less excuse not to work.

Behind the Conservative reforms has also been an attempt to reduce the "disincentive" effect of being on benefit: when people feel better off on social security than in work. The introduction of family credit, which continues to pay benefit to parents in low-paid work, has helped to make it worthwhile for them to take a job. And the new Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) has reduced the time during which those with savings can claim benefit when they are unemployed, and made benefit contingent upon looking for work and taking a job if one is offered.

There must now be very few young people who choose to live on benefit. For a start, the levels are hardly princely: just £37.90 a week for an 18 to 24-year-old on JSA. Besides, there are huge regional differences in unemployment, ranging from 3 per cent in some areas to 10 per cent in others. It would be odd to claim that those living in the 10 per cent areas are just more idle. More likely is that demand for labour is weaker in those places — there are fewer jobs.

As well as keeping benefit rates low, the Tories have also narrowed the eligibility for payments. The JSA is now harder to claim and the change from invalidity to incapacity benefit has tightened the rules by which doctors can sign off people as unfit to work. Given that benefit spending on the sick and disabled has increased threefold in real terms since 1979, at a time when people's health has improved, this was a necessary measure.

At the very bottom end of the income scale, though, changes to eligibility for one-off payments for items such as cookers have left some people in real need. These used to be grants; they were changed to loans which have to be paid back out of claimants' benefits. Those judged too poor to repay the loans are not given them — which compounds their poverty and leaves them prey to loan sharks.

The biggest challenge to any new government will be what to do about pensions. Unlike some European countries, Britain does not face a conventional "pensions time-bomb", partly because the numbers of old people will be smaller here. Another reason is that the British hold more in second pensions than the rest of Europe put together.

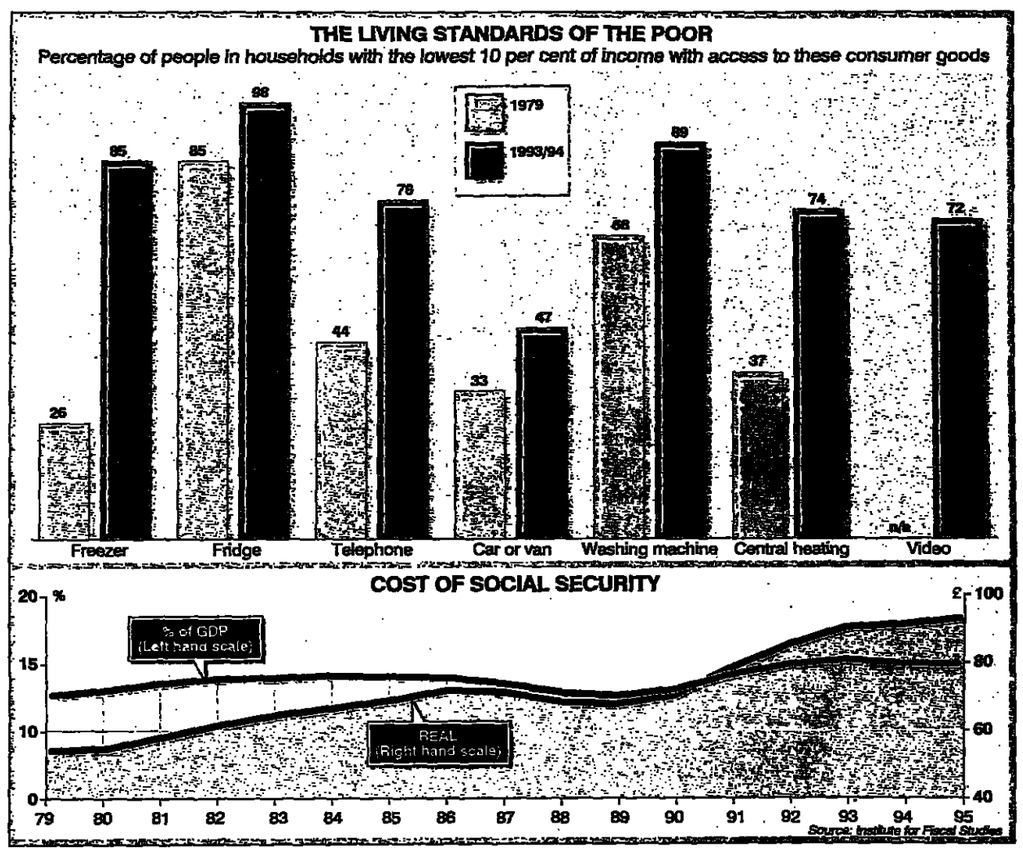
But the not-so-cheering reason is that the basic state pension here is comparatively small. So a lot of people retiring in the next century will do so on very low incomes, which will have to be topped up by the State.

We all expect to live longer, but to retire at the same age on the same income (except for women, whose pension age is rising from 60 to 65). We also face the risk of having to finance long-term care. All this means putting more aside during our working lives, either through savings or tax.

Higher social security spending could be financed by higher taxes. But the lesson of the past few elections is that voters are not prepared to pay more. So how to reduce the future cost of pensions and support for pensioners will be one of the most intractable issues facing the Social Security Secretary after the election. Labour is experimenting with several ideas: for instance, "stakeholder" second pensions, administered more cheaply than private pensions; and integrating taxes and benefits for the retired, which would allow the state pension to be clawed back from the well-off.

Whatever reforms are made to middle-class, universal benefits such as pensions, though, are likely to be made by stealth. As Mr Lilley has shown, welfare reform can be achieved, provided it is done in small steps, not with a big bang. This may make radicals feel impatient, but in the long run it is a strategy that has been shown to work.

Next week: Defence



THE PEOPLE

■ PETER LILLEY



Age: 54

Education: Dulwich College; economics at Cambridge.

Family: married to Gail Ansell, artist. No children.

Experience: former stockbroker. Became MP in 1983 and rose through the Treasury, entering Cabinet in 1990 as Trade and Industry Secretary. At Social Security since 1992.

Politics: early Thatcherite, as dry as a desert rock, Eurosceptical. A likeable and intelligent politician whose diffidence would preclude him becoming leader.

Performance: achieved social security cuts with remarkably little opposition. A little wooden in the House and on TV.

■ HARRIET HARMAN



Age: 46

Education: St Paul's Girls School; Politics at York.

Family: married to Jack Dromey, union official. Two sons and a daughter.

Experience: radical lawyer at Brent Law Centre, then National Council for Civil Liberties. Became MP in 1982, and Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury in 1992. Moved to Employment and Health before Social Security last July.

Politics: staunch Blairite. Unpopular in the party for sending her son to grammar school.

Performance: the middle-class, feminine face of Labour. More successful on TV than in the House, where Tories wind her up.

THE QUOTES

I've always had this very straight economic — capitalist if you like — argument that what we need is a vibrant, healthy economy and money will flow through the system and make poor people richer. What I didn't realise was how the money doesn't get to the very poorest, even if the average wage goes up.

Prue Leith, Channel 4 Poverty Commission

To most people the idea that well over half the group alleged to demonstrate ever-deepening poverty nonetheless have a car at least gives pause for thought.

Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary

Social security: the very words chosen in 1945 to signify a fresh start. Once a dignifying concept that replaced the poor law, the words "social security" have now acquired the stigma that the old poor law possessed.

Gordon Brown, Shadow Chancellor

The insured persons should not feel that income for idleness, however caused, can come from a bottomless purse.

Sir William Beveridge, founder of the welfare state

I came to office with one deliberate intent. To change Britain from a dependent to a self-reliant society — from a give-it-to-me to a do-it-yourself nation; to a get-up-and-go instead of a sit-back-and-wait-for-it Britain.

Margaret Thatcher

The stark truth is that Britain's poorest pensioners may have to choose between heating and eating this winter.

Harriet Harman, Shadow Social Security Secretary

For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

St Paul to the Thessalonians

CONSERVATIVES



Pensions: basic pension will probably remain universal and linked to prices. Private pensions will be encouraged. Women to retire, like men, at 65 from 2020, with higher pensions for people who defer retirement for longer.

Child benefit: likely to remain universal and uprated in line with inflation.

Welfare to work: extension of "workfare" schemes, speeding up Family Credit payments, helping with childcare, paying housing benefit and council tax benefit for first four weeks in work, plus back-to-work bonus.

Lone parents: continue efforts to make fathers contribute. Possible extension of Parent Plus pilot, which uses private sector to find jobs for lone parents. Will pay benefits at same rate to lone and married parents from April 1998.

Disability: implementing Disability Discrimination Act, which outlaws unjustifiable discrimination against the disabled in goods and services. New incapacity benefit should go only to people genuinely incapable of work.

Housing benefit: will reform so that people out of work have same incentives to take account of their housing costs as people in a job.

Fraud: new Fraud Bill will allow comparison of tax and social security records. New Benefit Fraud Inspectorate will monitor local authority performance in tackling fraud.

LABOUR



Pensions: state pension continues to be universal. Encourage second pensions with introduction of "stakeholder" pension. May integrate tax and benefits for pensioners.

Child benefit: may be scrapped for 16 to 18-year-olds still at school and paid as "educational allowance" to teenagers from poor families. Could be taxed for higher-rate payers.

Welfare to work: windfall levy will pay for 250,000 under-25s to come off benefit and into work. All young unemployed for more than six months will be offered jobs or training, and will have to accept or suffer benefit cut. National insurance holiday for employers to take on long-term unemployed. Job centres and benefit offices to merge.

Lone parents: those with school-age children will be helped to find a job. After-school clubs to help mothers match working hours with school hours.

Disability: review eligibility of Incapacity Benefit.

Housing benefit: welfare to work measures should reduce housing benefit bill.

Long-term care: currently "a lottery" depending on where people live. Develop national guidelines.

Fraud: crack down on housing benefit fraud by landlords with new offence of organised landlord fraud.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



Pensions: basic pension will remain universal. Pension top-up benefits will replace Income Support for the age group. Retirement age will be flexible over a ten-year period.

Child benefit: universal child benefit until the age of 18. £5 increase per week per family, funded by phasing out Married Couple's Allowance.

Welfare to work: 50 per cent top rate tax enabling up to 500,000 to be taken out of the tax system at the bottom end and other measures to reduce the poverty trap. Simplified low income benefit. Benefits transferred to employer for first two years of employment.

Lone parents: encourage lone parents to work by providing nursery education for all 3 and 4-year-olds and extending tax relief on work-place nurseries to other forms of child care. Retain single parent benefits and reform CSA.

Disability: replace Incapacity Benefit with comprehensive support system. Increase support for carers.

Housing benefit: decrease contribution to poverty trap by removing it at a slower rate. Provide loans for people to pay deposits on tenancies. Introduce a new Mortgage Benefit to provide 100 per cent assistance to low-income families.

Fraud: support the Government's Fraud Bill, although concerned about the civil liberty implications of data matching — records being compared across departments.

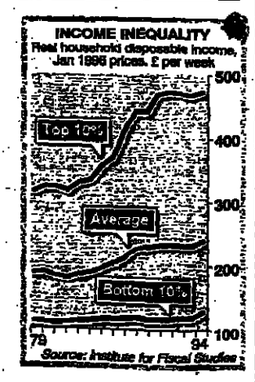
☐ Most households in Great Britain receive some form of social security benefit, rising from 74 per cent of homes in England to 81 per cent in Wales. In Greater London, the North and North West of England, 24 per cent of homes are so poor they rely on means-tested Family Credit or Income Support.

☐ The annual budget of the Department of Social Security is £91 billion. It costs every worker £15 per working day. Fraud is estimated to cost £3 billion a year.

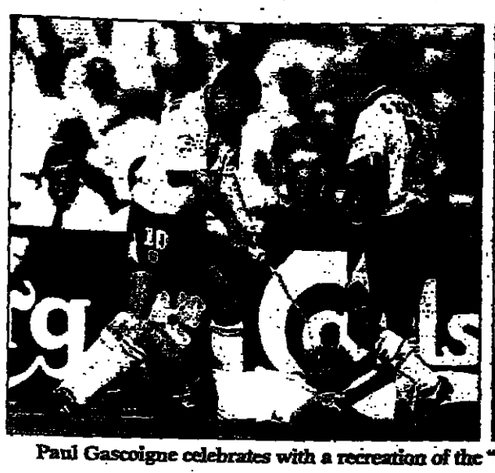
☐ The gap between high and low incomes grew rapidly in the United Kingdom in the 1980s but has remained stable in the 1990s. The poor are socially mobile — most of those who were in the lowest fifth of the population by income in 1991 had escaped into the top four-fifths by 1994.

☐ Because of unemployment and the increase in lone parents, the proportion of children in a home where no one earns anything has risen from 18 per cent in 1979 to 31 per cent in 1993-94. The rise in all households where no adult of working age receives a wage was 8 per cent, to 17 per cent.

☐ Six in ten male employees in Great Britain are in an occupational pension scheme while nearly three in ten have a personal pension. Pakistanis and Bangladeshis are the ethnic group least likely to have extra provision for old age.



Ballet adds a finishing twirl to the beautiful game





Paul Gascoigne celebrates with a recreation of the "dentist's chair" drinking incident and Jurgen Klinsmann takes a dive to mark a goal



Clissold Park Rangers raise the level of celebration with a choreographed routine



Robin Young, a former ballet critic, reviews the style of a Sunday soccer team that has taken to choreographing its scoring celebrations

IT WAS an exceptional display of choreography — especially considering the venue. On the windswept wastes of Hackney Marshes in east London, the Sunday footballers of Clissold Park Rovers raised goal celebrations to new artistic heights after scoring against Daz Automatic, their Thames League Third Division rivals.

As the ball went into the net the jubilant Rovers ran forward, lifted their triumphant striker aloft and paired off in a series of balletic lifts, spins and twirls that would not have been entirely amiss on the stage at Covent Garden. The manoeuvres, designed to bring new standards of creativity and and discipline to the art of football celebrations, got two performances yesterday in a match that was drawn 2-2.

Pre-match training under the tuition of Kate Brown, a modern dance choreographer, enabled the Rovers to bring a touch of class to their celebratory rituals that their untutored rivals could not match. Ms Brown had been recruited by the football magazine *FC* to coach the Rovers in more imaginative and artistic ways of expressing their joy at scoring.

Although one attempted *pas de deux* crumpled ignominiously in the trampled mud of a gale-swept Pitch 17 after Rovers' first goal, the second performance was, everyone agreed, almost as satisfactory as the second goal itself. "Goal celebrations have been getting more and more imaginative," Peter Freedman, *FC*'s editor, said. "Synchronised celebration is emerging as a performance art, not unlike formation dancing."

"All football is structured improvisation in movement," said Ms Brown, as she set about explaining her vision of the Rovers' celebratory future. "We are looking for a shared vocabulary of movements in response to unpredictable events."

Ms Brown, a founder member of an Irish dance group called the Hairy Marys, was chosen to raise the standards of Clissold Park Rovers' hitherto ragged and rather occasional celebrations because her previous work included an avant-garde fusion of football and dance.

That was performed partly by dancers and partly by footballers, first on a football pitch and then in a theatre. It was called *Over Two Legs*, to echo the concept of football as a "game of two halves".

Clissold Park Rovers were chosen as beneficiaries of her expertise, not because of any exceptional scoring ability (they are half way up their league at present, but already out of the cup), but because their captain, Clive Batty, is a journalist and one of *FC*'s contributing editors.

Another team member is Ivor Baddiel, brother of the comedian, David. "You do not need *Fantasy Football League*, when this is going on," he commented, as he practised lifting a hefty teammate as though he were the lissome dancer Darcey Bussell. "This is fantasy enough."

The goal celebration craze started with Roger Milla provocatively shimmying to the corner flag when he scored for Cameroon in the 1990 World Cup. It took definitive hold in Britain when Jurgen Klinsmann first performed his swallow-dive before the crowd after scoring for Spurs.

Since then there has been Middlesbrough's Fabrizio Ravanelli pulling his shirt over his head, Lee Sharpe's Elvis Presley impressions at Manchester United, Paul Merson's elbow-bending drinker imitations for Arsenal, Paul Gascoigne's re-enactment of the dentist's chair drinking bout scandal and Chelsea's gladiatorial poses. Non-league clubs rushed to improve on their seniors' efforts, most famously with Aylesbury United's duckling waddle, and Kingstonians' "dying fly" routine.

"Whatever the professionals are up to, the Sunday league players try to imitate," Michael Jacobs, publisher of *FC*, said. "There is something pretty ridiculous about doing Klinsmann dives or a Wimbledon strut in front of three men and a dog on Hackney Marshes, but these guys are ready for anything."

Ms Brown said that she felt it was important her celebration routine should involve the whole team, and her suggestions were well received by the players, though their efforts as a *corps de ballet* were much handicapped by uneven conditions underfoot and a howling gale.

"I feel like a star. I love it," said striker Silvo Kirati, a coffee bar supervisor, as he was lifted by his team-mates a ninth time in practice sessions. The choreographer might have missed a trick, though. The most notorious episode in Clissold Park Rovers' short career to date is the goal Michael Baker, a barrister in his day job, scored against Daz Automatic last year.

On that occasion he deflected the ball into the net with what footballers traditionally refer to as the "groin". Staggering around the pitch clutching their crotches might, after all, have been more within the Rovers' Terpsichorean abilities than the relatively complicated co-ordinated contact improvisation techniques Ms Brown chose to adopt.

Football, 28-31



Dancer: Kate Brown

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Phenomenal growth in Republic's building industry has reversed the migration of labour

Army of navvies crosses Irish sea in search of riches

BY NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

AN ARMY of British labourers is descending on Ireland to take up well-paid jobs in the booming construction industry, after centuries of migration in the other direction.

Cockney, Glaswegian and Welsh accents are ringing out at building sites across the country as British workers help to transform city centres in the way that Irish navvies built Victorian Britain. The Britons are attracted by the high wages in the Irish construction industry, whose phenomenal growth in the past year has resulted in a shortage of skilled workers. The industry is growing at about 6 per cent a year, in response to Ireland's annual economic growth of 7 per cent; British growth is about 2.5 per cent.

The shortage of skilled electricians, plumbers and labourers has prompted the Irish Construction Industry Federation to conduct an advertising campaign in Britain, to persuade 5,000 workers to cross the Irish Sea. The campaign, featuring a foreman in Lord Kitchener pose declaring: "We need you back in Ireland", is aimed at the tens of thousands of Irish labourers who have emigrated to Britain in the past 20 years in the traditional search for work. Up to 2,000 men, including some with no Irish roots, telephoned a "Jobs Line" within days of the advertisement's appearance and will be following a path trodden by British labourers.



Ireland's call to work

One building site near the Customs House by the River Liffey in the heart of Dublin, where a £60 million international banking centre is beginning to take shape, has been enlivened by the warm accents of a group of Welsh workers. Mark Courtney, 23, and Chris Boulton, 18, both from Blackwood, Caerphilly, are working 12 hours a day, seven days a week, to fireproof the building, to be known as the Customs House Plaza.

As he took a break from spraying concrete on the steel beams, Mr Courtney, who arrived last October, said: "It's great working in Dublin — it is a nice place and the wages are good. I'm earning £90 a day compared with £70 back home. There is a lot of work in Dublin and I'm on to my fifth job since arriving." Bricklayers earn £10.60 an hour in Dublin compared with £7.25 in London. Plasterers are also on higher rates in Ireland.

Mr Boulton was unemployed in Wales until he arrived in Dublin last month. He is enjoying the craic, and is a regular and welcome visitor to Kenny's Bar near the building site. "Everyone is very friendly in Dublin, but Mark and I are still getting over the rugby match when Ireland beat us by one point," he said.

One of their fellow labourers returned home to Ireland last year after ten years working on building sites in London. Kieran Fitzgerald, 30, a scaffolder, who is married with one child, said: "I went to London in 1986 because the recession was in full swing in Dublin and there was no work. Going to England allowed me to do my training to become a tradesman. By the time I decided to come back last August I had no difficulty in getting a job."


JOHN COGILL
Mark Courtney and Chris Boulton, from south Wales, who are helping to build an international banking centre

From the rooftop of the building site it is easy to see why labourers are in such demand. Cranes dominate the Dublin skyline as derelict areas are regenerated in the way that London's Docklands was transformed in the 1980s. Gleaming glass-fronted buildings house American banks along the Liffey next to smart apartment blocks.

A new shopping centre, which was Europe's largest building site, has just opened in the city centre. The Jervis centre, built with the help of hundreds of English labourers, has been dubbed a Slice of Britain because stores such Boots and Debenhams have opened their first outlets in the Republic there.

British navvies abroad won a place in the nation's heart thanks to the hugely popular ITV comedy-drama series *Auf Wiedersehen, Pet*, about Britons working on German building sites. If the new generation of British navvies in Ireland want to say "Goodbye, pet", to their wives and girlfriends in the native tongue, they could try "Sláin, a ghrá".

Reversal of fortune for men whose skills are in demand

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THERE was little good about the Irish potato famines of the 1840s, but at least they coincided with the Victorian boom in Britain's industrial power, the building of its railways and the consequent demand for armies of cheap, unskilled labour.

Since Elizabethan times there had been a trickle of migration from the smaller island to the larger, but when the staple crop failed three times in the early years of Victoria's reign, the Irish poured into Glasgow and Liverpool in their hundreds of thousands. The huge number of people of Irish descent living in those cities today shows that many of the immigrants stepped off the boat and never got any further.

The 1841 census revealed there were 49,000 Irish-born dwellers in Great Britain. By the 1851 census the number had burgeoned to 734,000, accounting for 3 per cent of the population of England and Wales and 7 per cent of Scotland's. In 1848, the Glasgow Poor Law Commissioners reported that two thirds of their funds were being spent on relief for Irish immigrants.

Between 1845 and 1851 the population of Ireland fell by more than two million, of whom 800,000 died of starvation or malnutrition and the rest emigrated.

Often illiterate through no fault of their own, the Irish escaped starvation — but not by much — toiling as ill-paid and unskilled factory workers or as labourers building the railways. Deeply wedded to drink and fighting, they often terrorised the local population wherever there was a work camp. A French observer of the time noted that the Irish were "in general men without any definite trade, ready for anything and good for nothing". They were known as navvies after a previous generation of shovel-wielders who had dug Britain's canals and were called "navigators".

A second wave of Irish workseekers arrived in the depression years of the late 1920s and a third in the boom years of the 1950s and 1960s, when postwar reconstruction created a huge demand for labour, both skilled and unskilled. Since the 1949 Ireland Act, now largely overtaken by the European Union's free labour market, citizens of the Republic of Ireland have had complete freedom to live, work and vote in Britain.

The 1991 census recorded 600,000 Irish-born citizens living in Britain but the tide of migration is now flowing the other way. The number of Irish coming to work in the larger country is reduced to a trickle estimated at not much more than 2,000 a year. Ireland wants its skilled building workers back: too many young Irish are trained in computers and other clean-handed trades to work as brickies or chippies.

Donal Mooney, editor of the Irish community's London-based weekly newspaper *Irish Post*, says that the pattern of migration across the Irish Sea has changed fundamentally: "The days of permanent emigration to Britain are largely gone; the Irish will now come here for a few years to gain experience, and then go home again.

"Many who might once have come to Britain will now work in other EU countries. And of those who come here, the unskilled are now only a small proportion. Ireland has become a well-educated country."

Education has indeed changed the picture. Migrants to Britain are now known by the acronym Nipples: New Irish Professional People Living in England.


Victoria's Britain was largely built by immigrant labour

Oxford's 'equal' entry system fails to promote state pupils

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD University has offered slightly fewer places to students from state schools in spite of scrapping its entrance examination to enable them to compete on equal terms with pupils from independent schools.

The exam was abolished after consistent criticism that independent schools were better able to prepare pupils for the three-hour examinations, which they took in preference to competing for entry on A-level grades. However, the impact of the new system — based on school report, interviews and shorter tests in some subjects, leading to A-level grade targets — has yet to be felt. There was a slight fall in the proportion of offers to state school pupils from 43.6 to 43 per cent. Independent school students had 47.5 per cent compared with 47.4 per cent, with the remainder going to mature and overseas students.

Head teachers from state schools said yesterday that Oxford should try harder to promote a welcoming image to their schools, but the university appealed for time for the effects of the new admissions system to be felt. Cambridge, which dropped its entrance examinations 11 years ago, has an equal balance of state and independent school students. Jane Minto, secretary of the Oxford Colleges Applications Office, said: "It shows us there is work to be done and we still need to make every effort so more candidates apply from the maintained sector."

John Dunford, past president of the Secondary Headteachers' Association, said clearer entrance information was needed: "We have not noticed an increase in Oxford's marketing or search for good state school candidates this year and approaches still seem to be college-based. They could be doing more."

Serpent's sting is also in its stomach

MEDICAL BRIEFING

AN eight-month-old baby has died of meningitis caused by salmonella infection contracted from a python kept as a pet by his father.

The story of Conor Axten and his parents Jane and Jeremy, of Lichfield, Staffordshire, is to be told tonight on BBC1's *Here and Now*. Mr Axten little realised that the guts of snakes are teeming with salmonella, which can infect their handlers. Usually, nothing more than occasional diarrhoea and vomiting is caused, when the handler's resistance to infection has become lowered. In Conor's case, however, the bacterium gained access to his bloodstream, multiplied, and produced the generalised septicaemia from which he developed meningitis.

Almost any bacterium can cause meningitis, which denotes inflammation of the covering of the brain. Meningitis is caused not only by infection with the meningococcus bacterium but can also follow infections with, for instance, the bacteria from the gut, including, very occasionally, salmonella.

The link between the family's pythons and Conor's salmonella meningitis might not have been found had Dr James Paton not asked about family pets. Conor's parents are dismayed that the risk of contracting salmonella poisoning from pets is not better known.

Snakes are not the only animals to harbour salmonella; even dogs and cats can be carriers. However, exotic pets are more likely to be the source of salmonella poisoning.

A patient of mine suffered recurrent attacks of salmonella food poisoning as a child. She mentioned to me that she used to take her pet tortoise on picnics. She must have eaten her sandwiches after playing with her tortoise but before washing her hands.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Dancers campaign to save studio

A campaign to save one of the country's foremost dance studios from closure is being backed by Britain's top Latin-American dancers, Donnie Burns and Gaynor Fairweather, 13 times undefeated world professional champions.

The Hendon Dancentre in north London faces closure under plans to redevelop the site of the studio and neighbouring cinema into a hotel or shopping complex. Plans have been submitted to Barnet Council which, if approved, will signal an end for the 40-year-old school run by Sydney Francis, one of the country's top coaches and adjudicators.

A petition has attracted 400 supporters and John Marshall, MP for Hendon South, will be seeking explanations from the council and the developers.

Gun ban protest

About 12,500 people held a protest march in central London against gun control legislation proposed after the Dunblane massacre. The Sportsman's Association, which was founded in October and organised the demonstration, may field candidates in the election.

All-faith centre

Bradford Cathedral is to be home to an exhibition centre covering leading religions. The Queen will be given details of the National Faith Heritage Centre when she attends Maundy Service next month at the cathedral. The centre is seeking £3 million from the Millennium Commission.

Watch the birdy

About 350 bird fanciers have visited a garden in Brixham, Devon, to watch an olive-backed pipit that should have wintered in South-East Asia after flying from its Siberian home. Nigel Smallbones, 47, has held four open days, during which enthusiasts viewed the pipit from his kitchen.

Treehouse fire

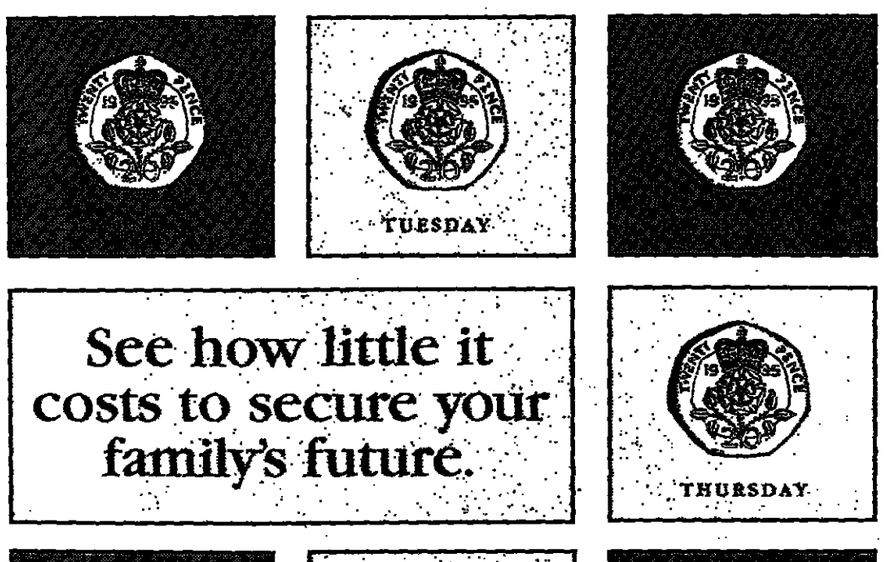
Stephen Anderson, 38, a roads protester from Blackburn, was in hospital with serious burns after a fire in a treehouse at the site of a proposed by-pass at Bingley, west Yorkshire. It is believed the accident was caused by a butane lighter. Work on the road is due to start in the summer of 1988.

Salmon leap

Salmon fishing on the Wye is expected to improve in future years after large numbers of fish have been seen spawning in the river in the past few weeks. The increase in spawning is mainly attributed to the work of volunteers of the Wye Foundation in clearing tributaries of obstructions.

Survivor's trip

Millvina Dean, one of the seven remaining survivors of the *Titanic* disaster, is to cross the Atlantic by boat 85 years after the sinking. She intends to sail on the *QE2* later this year. Miss Dean, from the New Forest, Hampshire, was nine weeks old when the *Titanic* hit an iceberg.



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Beach yields mass grave of shipwrecked slaves

By Nick Constable and Karen Farrington

A MASS grave containing the bodies of shipwrecked slaves has been uncovered on a holiday beach after Atlantic storms.

Up to 60 bodies are thought to lie beneath the rugged cliffs of Rapparee Cove in north Devon, where the treasure ship *London* foundered with all hands 200 years ago.

An archaeological team has begun excavating the site near Ilfracombe, which has yielded dozens of bones and three perfectly preserved teeth. Yesterday the first iron fetters were discovered in the shale. During the past 20 years several gold and silver coins thought to have come from the *London* have been found in the cove.

Experts believe that the grave is the largest burial ground of slaves discovered on the British coast. The bodies were apparently considered heathen by the locals and unfit for Christian interment.

Skull bones emerged three weeks ago but the dig could not begin until police had established that there were no suspicious circumstances. Scientific tests have confirmed that the skulls are of African descent.

The dig is unlikely to solve all the mysteries surrounding the 300-tonne barque, which had been chartered as a transporter by the Admiralty during the French Revolutionary wars.

She was thought to have been bound for Bristol with her booty and 60 French black slaves captured during General Sir Ralph Abercromby's Caribbean campaign. On the afternoon of October 9, 1796, the ship's master, Captain Robertson, approached Ilfracombe seeking shelter from a gathering storm.

Pilots rowed out to help him to dock but he tried instead to moor to a buoy at the mouth of the harbour.

According to a later account by a Captain Chiswell, held in Ilfracombe museum, one pilot shouted: "Where are you from?" Robertson, described as a "ruffian captain", was said to have screamed back: "From Hell, bound for damnation."

His ambitious manoeuvre failed and the ship, with its prisoners chained in the hold, was dashed against the rocks. Chiswell wrote that the ship contained five treasure chests, only four of which were recovered.

He described the cove as "covered with the bodies of negroes" and recorded that the corpse of a young woman, "a naked lily fair", was also washed up.

The excavation will concentrate on a ten-yard area of the cliffs which has been eroded by winter storms. Pat Barrow, an amateur archaeologist who is co-ordinating the dig for Ilfracombe museum, has spent 25 years researching the *London*'s history. He believes the slaves were officially listed as prisoners of war. Britain's abolition of slavery was still 38 years away, although by the early 19th century liberal politicians were campaigning against it.

Mr Barrow said: "There's no doubt the skipper could have sold the slaves, probably at Bristol, if he'd wanted to. It is unclear why he was so reluctant to dock at Ilfracombe. The reports of the time suggested the wind would have been favourable. I believe the skipper was worried that local people would discover the slaves in his hold and try to release them. This area had a very strong religious tradition."



Pat Barrow at Rapparee Cove, Devon, yesterday with bones from the drowned 18th-century negro slaves



"From Hell, bound for damnation": a contemporary impression of the *London* sinking outside Ilfracombe harbour

Households may have to pay £100 for retuned TVs

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

TWO million householders face charges of up to £100 to have their television sets retuned to cope with the advent of Channel 5.

With 35 days to go before the station's launch, a survey conducted by Continental Research shows that only 42 per cent of homes in London have been retuned to prevent interference.

The £150 million retuning programme, which began last August, is also lagging behind its targets in other cities. Jim Cavanagh, who commissioned the survey for ITV companies, said that while retuning appeared to be going well in as Yorkshire, other areas were flagging.

He estimated that so far 6.5 million homes have been retuned, against the 7.7 million that Channel 5 is claiming. "Original estimates indicate that 8.8 million homes would require retuning prior to the company being cleared for a national launch. Hence with only five weeks to launch, there are possibly 2.3 million homes still requiring attention," he said.

Retuning is necessary because the broadcasting frequency to be used by Channel 5 is in some areas very close to the frequency to which many video recorders are tuned. In some places, the Channel 5 frequency is also close to the part of the spectrum occupied by the BBC, ITV and Channel 4. If the frequencies used by broadcasters are too close to each other, interference is caused.

Channel 5, Britain's first mainstream station to be launched in 15 years, is obliged by law to provide free retuning — but only for three months after its launch. After that, the responsibility — and the cost — falls to the viewer.

One Channel 5 retuner from London, who asked not to be named, said that although retuning was simple on most equipment, he would probably charge at least £25 to do the job. He expected that other retuners might charge up to £100.

Another retuner from Bristol said: "We are way behind our targets in the South West but I am sitting on my backside all day because the administration is not working."

Rules laid down by the Independent Television Commission require 90 per cent of homes in any one area to be retuned before the station can go on air in that locality.

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US puts 'modest' $35bn price tag on Nato expansion

BY TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE White House, facing growing Russian opposition to the swift expansion of Nato, today presents a report to Congress designed to bolster American policy and calm critics at home and abroad.

Offering a moderate assessment of American costs for extending the alliance, the study on strategic security in Europe aims to send a message to Moscow that Nato forces will not establish large new military installations close to the Russian border.

"There would be no need to station substantial Nato forces on the territories of new members," the report says.

The Administration estimates costs for Nato expansion, including the upgrading of armed forces, integration into the alliance command structure and the collective air defence system, at $35 billion (£22 billion) over the next 12 years.

During that time, the study said, the United States was expected to contribute no more than $2.5 billion, about $200 million a year and a very small part of America's $263 billion defence budget.

The report, obtained by *The Washington Post*, said the costs were variable but affordable and emphasised that failure to expand Nato would threaten the interests of the United States.

"It would diminish the alliance's relevance and vigour and would falsely revalidate Europe's old Cold War divisions at a time when Western policy is committed to overcome them," it said.

The cost projections only cover the first group of new members, Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary, which are expected to be invited to join Nato at the Madrid summit in July.

The report appears only weeks after George Kennan, the American éminence grise of superpower relations, said Nato expansion would encourage anti-democratic forces in Russia and described the proposal as the greatest error in Western policy since the end of the Cold War. Other notable public figures, including Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, and a growing chorus on Capitol Hill have also voiced their concerns.

Gennadi Zyuganov, the Russian Communist leader, said during a visit to Washington last week that all existing arms limitation treaties would be suspended if the alliance were to extend itself towards Russia's borders.

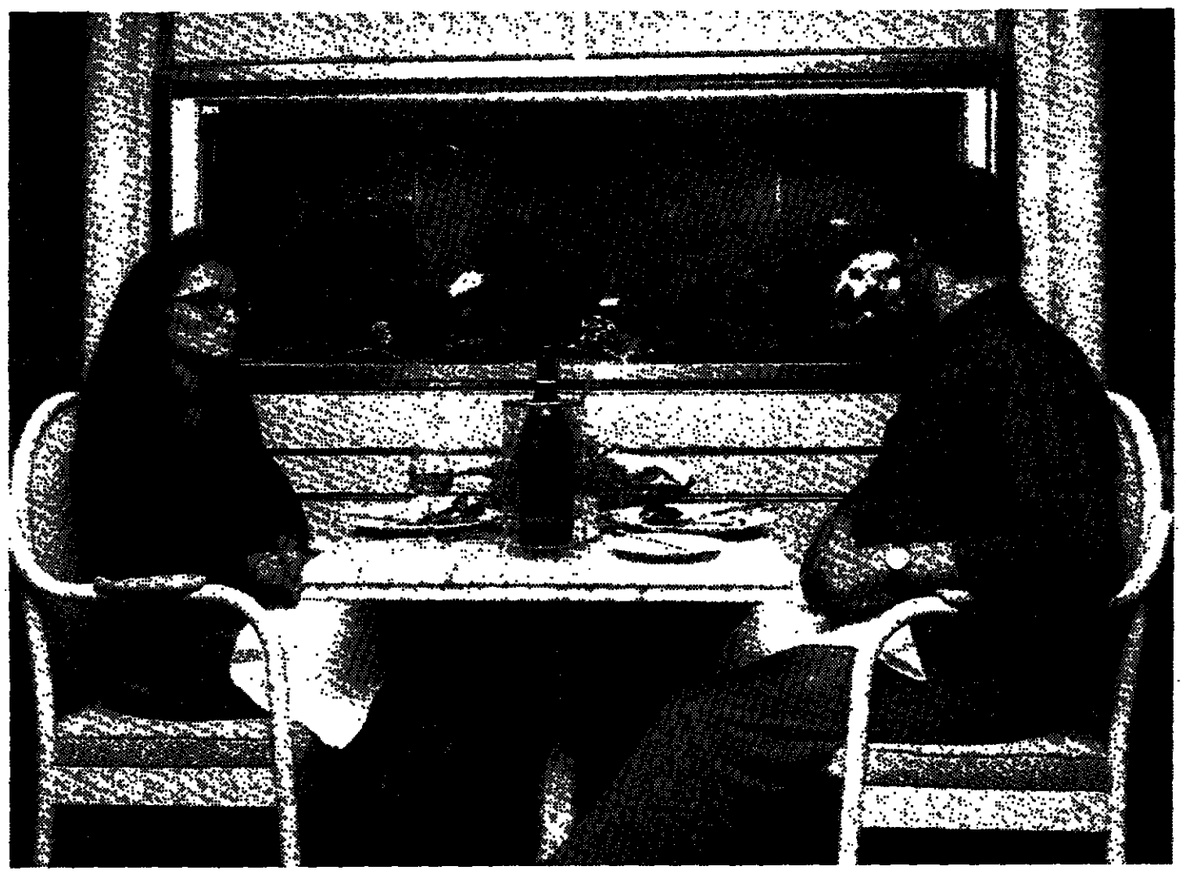
Igor Rodionov, the Russian Defence Minister, yesterday accused Nato of nurturing plans to wrest control of nuclear weapons from Moscow. He claimed the West was trying to use problems in the Russian Army as a pretext for bringing its nuclear arsenal under international control.

SERGEI CHIRIKOV / EPA



President Yeltsin talks to journalists close to the Kremlin yesterday in his first public appearance since the New Year. The Russian President, who was at a wreath-laying ceremony to mark Defenders of the Fatherland Day, said he was fully recovered from illness and ready to take on his opponents (Robin Lodge writes). "All that remains is to regain my strength," said the 66-year-old President who suffered a bout of pneumonia in January, just two months after heart surgery. Mr Yeltsin said he had lost 57lb, confirming the impression left by his gaunt appearance, which contrasts so strikingly with the hefty figure he cut in the past. Yesterday he walked steadily, although slowly and spoke clearly and energetically. Asked about recent attempts in the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, to have him removed from office on health grounds, he gave a warning that he was prepared to strike back. "This is a purely political, communist campaign," he said. "But they should know that I am a fighter and will remain a fighter. And they should be careful not to attack me too hard, because I can hit back." Mr Yeltsin, who has been convalescing since his release from hospital, did not say when he would be returning to full-time work. Doctors treating him have advised him against hurrying to resume a full schedule. But other than a few token trips, Mr Yeltsin has been away from his Kremlin desk ever since his heart trouble in early July.

Yeltsin makes a 'fighting' return



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BT It's good to talk

Fears of Rock fall after rain in Spain

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

A SERIES of avalanches in Gibraltar, each hurling hundreds of large boulders onto roads, tunnels and beaches, has prompted fears that the Rock's famed cliffs may be in danger of crumbling.

Although rockfalls are routine in Gibraltar, the latest examples have produced the largest tonnage of debris in the colony's history.

Torrential rains in December, which gave Gibraltar and the neighbouring Spanish region of Andalusia their wettest period since the turn of the century, appear to have greatly weakened the limestone cliffs, formed 20 million years ago when a tectonic shift caused Africa to collide with Europe.

Ten days ago, at Camp Bay, on the western side of the Rock, a large slab of cliff came hurtling down, blocking a tunnel which provides access to a popular beach. Earlier in the month, a rockfall near Catalan Bay, situated on the northeast near the water catchment area, was the scene of a disconcerting avalanche. Altogether, about 20,000 tonnes of rock are estimated to have fallen this year alone.

The Gibraltar Government has called in geological surveyors from Britain, who will submit their findings by the end of the week to the colony's chief civil engineer. Emergency measures will then be taken, including the use of wire nets to rein in rocks and debris.

Local experts, however, are anxious to play down fears of a "collapsing Gibraltar". Clive Finlayson, the director of the Gibraltar Museum, says: "The Rock will survive these avalanches, as it has done others in the past."

Dr Finlayson attributes the latest rockfalls to a combination of heavy rain and indiscriminate quarrying which took place at the turn of the century, when material was needed to build the dockyards.

Starr says Clinton's aide 'not murdered'

BY TOM RHODES

VINCENT FOSTER, the close confidant of Bill Clinton found dead in a park outside Washington nearly four years ago, was not murdered and there was no cover-up by the President or Hillary Clinton, according to an unreleased report by Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater prosecutor.

In an apparent attempt to restore credibility to Mr Starr's investigation after he first announced his resignation and then his decision to remain as independent counsel last week, his office appeared to have leaked the report to the *Los Angeles Times* yesterday.

The document claims that an exhaustive inquiry into the events surrounding Foster's death rejected repeated conspiracy theories that the former deputy White House counsel had been murdered.

The White House has consistently maintained that Foster, found shot at Fort Marcy Park on June 20, 1993, committed suicide and that his death was not connected with Whitewater investigations.

His death has remained the focus of numerous allegations ranging from murder to assaults by Israeli Intelligence and the Whitewater prosecutor's report may do little to blunt continuing speculation that the Clintons were involved in a cover-up.



Foster: found shot dead in a park in June 1993

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New scheme launched to help people who get a raw deal from medical insurance

RESEARCH has shown that, among the 5.7 million in Britain with private medical insurance, one group tend to pay more yet claim less.

They are usually in one of the Professions or work for themselves. Generally fit and healthy, without being fanatical about it, they follow a responsible, healthy lifestyle, take exercise, are careful about their diet, don't smoke or smoke very little, and consume alcohol well within the recommended levels. Probably they have taken very few days off work over the years.

But, by virtue of their work, if illness should strike, they cannot afford to be away sick for any length of time, and most have families depending on them.

So they tend to opt for the certainty provided by fully comprehensive private medical cover. They find that so-called 'budget schemes' offer too many restrictions; such as no out-patient cover, private treatment only if the NHS cannot treat them within 6 weeks, or there is a restricted hospitals list.

But comprehensive schemes are not cheap and, like all medical insurance, the subscriptions continue to rise much faster than general inflation. So there is unease in this group, faced with a 'Catch 22'. Their work situation and personal responsibilities means they need more cover than a budget scheme would provide, yet their lifestyle make them far less likely to make claims.

This is precisely why Western Provident Association, one of Britain's largest and longest established private medical insurers, have designed a unique scheme specifically to meet the demands of this important group – the 2-4-1 health insurance plan.

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Western Provident 2-4-1 at a glance

- You choose to carry part of the annual cost of private treatment. This can be the first £2,000, £4,000 or even just £1,000 for the year the policy runs. The saving on your premium depends on which figure you choose. £1,000 saves 33%, £2,000 saves 50%, and the maximum £4,000 saves 75% - all against the premiums of a comprehensive medical insurance policy. You can ask for your shared risk to be increased or decreased at each renewal time.
- 2-4-1 will provide unlimited cover for any cost over and above your personal liability, providing that the medical condition has not been excluded by our medical underwriters at the time of your application and your claim is within the rules of the plan.
- No medical examination is required, but you will be asked to complete an application form giving details of your medical history. 2-4-1 is available for married couples and families, but the shared risk is per person. Children up to 21 can be covered, but with a much lower shared risk figure of only £250.
- WPA will give you every assistance if you are moving to 2-4-1 from another insurer, but may exclude any existing medical conditions.
- 2-4-1 is not available to anyone aged 55 and over, but renewals will be accepted after this age.

For such an important decision, you may wish to know more. Please do not hesitate to 'phone us, without charge or obligation on the number below. We promise we will not contact you in any way, except at your request, but will send a confirmatory letter following your call. A trained advisor is available to visit you, but only if you ask for one.

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Typical examples of 2-4-1

Dick Murray is in a professional occupation, in his early forties, married with one child, living in London. His annual 2-4-1 family policy premium would be £826 (compared to the £3,600 he would be paying now for a typical top-of-the-range comprehensive medical insurance policy) if he elected to take a £4,000 risk share. He would benefit from a saving of £2,774 every year.

Emma Jones is in her mid-forties, lives in the North of England, with 'Scale 1' London cover. The premium rates for 2-4-1 are determined by where you live and unlike most PMI plans you have access to all private hospitals – there is no restricted list. Miss Jones, if she opted to pay the first £2,000, would save herself approximately £1,200 on the cost of a typical top-of-the-range comprehensive medical insurance policy.

2-4-1 not only provides unlimited cover for any costs over their agreed contributions, but, *because it is a top-of-the-range scheme, Mr. Murray and Miss Jones have access to over 650 hospitals nationwide, including some of the most famous establishments in London and the Provinces. (There are no restrictions on your choice of hospital).*

Most people maintain a medical insurance policy for between five years and ten years. As 2-4-1 savings occur *every year*, Mr. Murray will save (assuming he remained healthy) between £13,870 and £27,740, and Miss Jones between £6,000 and £12,000, without any interest on these sums! This they could either save for their long term care, put into a medical savings account (msa), use for school fees, top up pension contributions, or they could invest their savings to build up a nest egg with the interest.

For some, their annual 2-4-1 premium would be the same as they now pay each month for their top-of-the-range comprehensive medical insurance policy.

At the same time, they know the guaranteed limit of how much they might have to find in one year if the unexpected happens and they need medical treatment. 2-4-1 will pay any costs above that point.

Price Comparison of some Top-of-the-Range Private Medical Insurance (PMI)

Company	Product		Price*
WPA	Oak	*from*	£ 908.16 §
Bupa	Bupa Care	*from*	£1,092.42 §
Prime Health	Primecare Plus Gold	*from*	£1,193.85 §
Clinicare	Carte Blanche	*from*	£1,382.64 §
PPP Healthcare	Platinum	*from*	£2,336.18 §
WPA	2-4-1 with £2,000 shared risk	*from*	£ 259.14 depending on where you live.

* Price based upon a single policyholder aged 40 next birthday. Excluding any excess premium reductions.
§ Source: Money Marketing December 1996

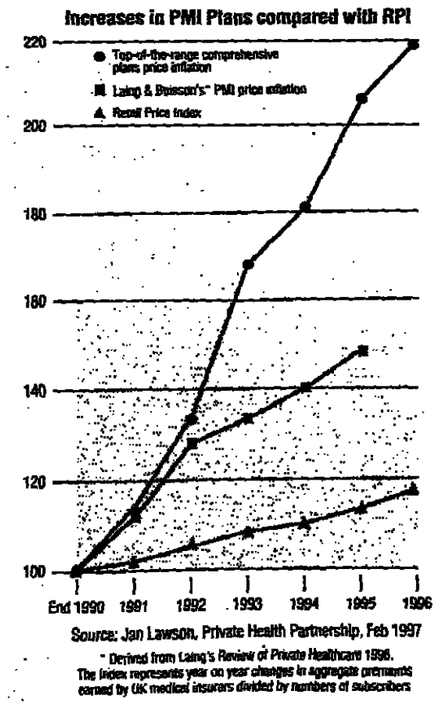
The facts behind the rising cost of medical insurance

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- 'Medical inflation' is considerably higher than general inflation. This is due to a number of factors.
- We live in an age of continual advances in medicine. Knee replacements, heart by-passes, cataract removals with lens implantations are just some of the now common-place operations. There are also major innovations in diagnosic techniques. But every medical advance creates extra cost.
- Because of these advances people are living longer and have higher expectations from medical care. This is the problem faced by the National Health Service, creating financial problems and waiting lists.
- The cost of private treatment has risen faster than NHS costs as there is no buffer of rationing by waiting lists. In fact, those with private medical insurance relieve the burden on the NHS and reduce waiting lists. 20% of all coronary heart by-pass operations are carried out privately.
- The growing expectations of a medical remedy for practically every ill, plus the funding difficulties of the NHS, means that people with health insurance now make more claims than ever before, particularly for minor illnesses and medical conditions.
- The principles of insurance are straightforward: the claims of the few are met by the premiums of the many. More claims mean higher premiums. 2-4-1 points the way out of that continuing situation.

Increases in PMI Plans compared with RPI



Source: Jan Lawson, Private Health Partnership, Feb 1997
* Derived from Laing's Review of Private Healthcare 1996. The index represents year on year changes in aggregate premiums earned by UK medical insurers divided by numbers of subscribers

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Germans grumble at euro but no popular revolt will save mark

THIS WEEK IN EUROPE

MANY people in Germany share British misgivings about a European single currency. Malcolm Rifkind told the German newspaper *Bild* last week. In one sense, the Foreign Secretary speaks a simple truth; but in another, his claim is misleading.

If you combine the German public's hostility to the euro with grim jobless figures and enervating strife over cutting back Germany's generous welfare state, you could easily assume that a grassroots rebellion will derail Helmut Kohl's dream of monetary union in 1999. Retired central bankers like Mr Wilhelm Nölling who threaten court cases to abort the birth of the euro strengthen this impression.

But having just spent a week criss-crossing Germany giving lectures, I am sure that this assumption is false. Germans are certainly worried, and rightly so: the odds stack heavily against the new money imitating the solid, long-term success of the post-war mark. All sorts of legal and political hiccups can occur. Leading German economists are queueing up to point out that Germany can only qualify under the single currency rules with the help of some very creative accountancy. Herr Kohl *might* decide that the whole project is not ripe and should be delayed, but I wouldn't bank on it.

There is grumbling everywhere against Herr Kohl's stubborn obsession with abstract Europe at the expense of jobs. A financial adviser remarked that people were taking their savings out of German marks and into Swiss francs again.

One of the country's senior bankers, himself closely involved in the technical preparation for the euro, told me that he thought the political underpinning for the currency was dangerously fragile. Yet whatever else happens, a popular revolt will not. The Germans take pride in their resilience. Whatever occurs, they pick themselves up, dust themselves off and start competing all over again. They are enduring recessionary pain which would have broken other European economies to set the eastern segment of the country back on its feet. So it should be with the euro.

German history overlays this with a curious fatalism. A patronising professor from west Germany who now works in the east told me without embarrassment that after being ruled by Prussia, Adolf Hitler and Communists, east Germans had acquired a habit of deference to authority called *Obrigkeitsdenken*, a willingness to accept that distant power was both wise and unaccountable.

A hospital doctor reminded me that although Germans were terrified of hyper-inflation, which had destroyed peoples' savings twice in living memory, they were also accustomed to abrupt changes of regimes and monies. During this century, west Germans have lived through the imperial, Weimar, Nazi and post-war democracy eras, each with their own currency. East Germans have used a fifth, the unlamented ost-mark of the communist era. No ordinary person exercised much choice in any of these changes.

In Germany, the word "Europe" may be many things from a geographical term to a political slogan, but it is above all a moral value. It remains relatively easy to brand a politician who questions the single currency as "against Europe". To be branded as against Europe is to be thought in favour of the nation state, therefore in favour of nationalism, therefore in favour of competition between states and therefore in favour of war.

Germany's mission must be to reassure its neighbours by "building Europe". The idea that if Germany is seen as dictating the terms of reassurance to its neighbours, then the neighbours may not feel reassured, makes no headway.

These reflections make for a gloomy forecast, as I take my leave of this column. Germany's resigned outlook makes the single currency more likely to start. The euro will only work economically if it partitions Europe politically; if all of Europe is included, the currency will collapse. Either way, it fails, and the shock waves of that failure will be bad for the entire continent.

GEORGE BROCK

Netanyahu hires top lawyer over corruption inquiry

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AMMAN AND ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli Government's difficulties over a corruption scandal and plans to build a new Jewish settlement in east Jerusalem deepened yesterday as Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, flew to Amman for peace talks.

Jordanian officials said later that King Husain had given Mr Netanyahu a strong warning against proceeding with Har Homa, a settlement for 6,500 Jewish families. The future of the project is to be decided by the Israeli Cabinet tomorrow.

The King refused to give details of his criticisms but said: "I know how sensitive the issue of Jerusalem is and I hope nothing will happen to explode emotions."

Earlier yesterday, the opposition Labour Party called on supporters to begin preparing for an early election in the belief that the Netanyahu Government will fall. The Prime Minister has appointed one of Israel's top criminal lawyers, Yaacov Weinroth, amid reports that he has been questioned by police under caution about allegations that the ultra-orthodox Shas Party influenced the appointment of Ronnie Bar-on as Attorney-General.

"Not only is the Prime Minister not tainted with any criminal act, he has not committed so much as a particle of a criminal act," Mr Weinroth said yesterday.

Under the alleged deal, Aryeh Deri, the Shas leader, was to have guaranteed that two Shas Cabinet ministers would support last month's accord transferring Hebron to Palestinian self-rule. In return, it was alleged, Mr Bar-on would have arranged a plea bargain for Mr Deri, who is on trial on fraud charges.

Israel's state-run Channel One television reported that last week Mr Netanyahu evaded questions from the police and replied to others by saying "I don't know", and "I don't remember".

The police then told the Prime Minister that he was being questioned "under warning", generally considered to be an indication that his replies could be used in legal proceedings.

Avigdor Kahalani, the Internal Security Minister believes the Government will have to resign and elections will be held if either Mr Netanyahu or Tzachi Hanegbi, the Justice Minister, is found to have been involved in the affair.

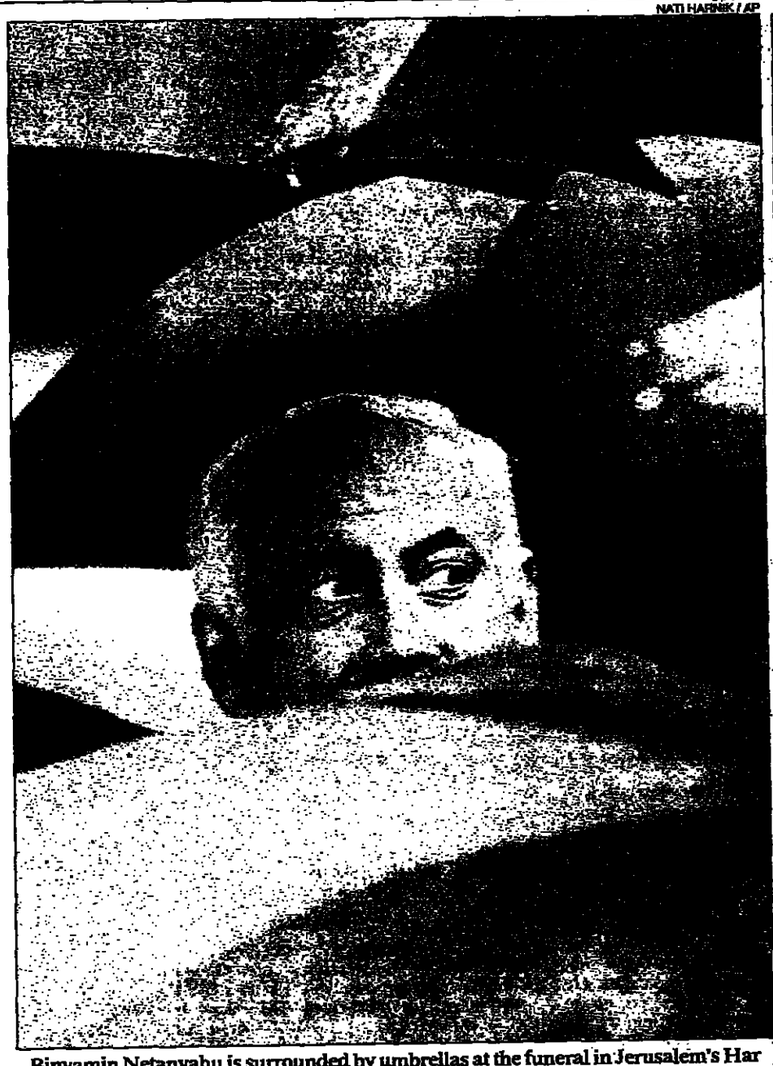
Mr Netanyahu was told by Yassir Arafat's Palestinian Authority at the weekend that if his Government approved the Har Homa project it would create an "explosive" situation in the holy city.

"The attempt to Judaise Jerusalem by building, is a red line that must not be crossed," the authority said after a Cabinet meeting in Gaza. "Israel's Government must decide between peace and between construction in Jerusalem. Building on Palestinian land will incite violent eruptions whose results cannot be foreseen by anyone."

Mr Netanyahu admitted that he and King Husain had differed over the future of Jerusalem which, in addition to the Har Homa settlement, is due to be the central issue in final status peace talks with the Palestinians due to open next month. "We have different opinions about Jerusalem," Mr Netanyahu said. "I must say these feelings were expressed. I believe it was done openly and honestly between friends."

The Israeli and Jordanian leaders also discussed methods of increasing co-operation and further strengthening the peace treaty between them which was signed in 1994 and still faces widespread opposition in Jordan.

NATI HARNIK / AP



Binyamin Netanyahu is surrounded by umbrellas at the funeral in Jerusalem's Har Herzi cemetery of Levy Eshkol, one of his predecessors as Israel's Prime Minister

Brothers charged over death of sisters

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

TWO violent criminals recently released from prison were last night charged with murdering four young women.

The murders have provoked widespread demonstrations and criticism of lenient sentencing and will strengthen the hand of Jacques Toubon, the Justice Minister, whose plans to force sexual offenders to undergo treatment have run into strong opposition.

Jean-Michel Jourdain, 34, and his brother, Jean-Louis, 38, have accused each other of raping and strangling the four women near Boulogne on February 12. The bodies of Audrey Lamotte, 17, her sister, Isabelle, 20, Amélie Merlin, 20, and her sister, Peggy, 17, were found buried in sand dunes outside the town.

As the men were charged with sexual assault and murder, several hundred people demonstrated in the village of Outreau, where the dead women lived. Many of the demonstrators called for a return of the death penalty. Their demands were fuelled by the revelation that Jean-Michel Jourdain was freed from jail in 1995 after serving nine-years of a 15-year sentence for killing a young girl. Jean-Louis Jourdain was released from prison in 1994 after serving seven years of a ten-year sentence for rape.

Thieves reel in priceless painting

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALIAN art authorities, already embarrassed by the wholesale haemorrhage of Old Masters and antiquities from Italy through theft and smuggling, yesterday disclosed that a priceless early 20th-century masterpiece by Gustav Klimt, the Viennese painter, had been stolen from a gallery in Piacenza.

Art gallery custodians discovered that Klimt's *Portrait of a Lady* was missing yesterday, but it is believed to have been stolen several days ago. Thieves got to the roof of the Modern Art Museum and dangled a wire with a hook on the end through a skylight, catching the picture and hauling it up. They then cut the painting out of its frame, which was found abandoned on the roof.

Police said the gallery organisers had been preparing to move the painting to another gallery in Piacenza on temporary loan. Red-faced custodians said yesterday that they had noticed the painting's absence "some days ago" but had assumed it had been packed up ready for transportation, and did not realise it had been stolen. Art experts said the painting was far too well-known to be sold on the open market and had "probably been stolen to commission".



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Disgraced reformer Zhao barred from Deng ceremony

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

AMID tensions and uncertainties here, Zhao Ziyang, the former Communist Party chief deposed during the Tiananmen demonstrations in June 1989 for sympathising with student protesters, has been banned from attending the private cremation today of Deng Xiaoping.

Mr Deng's successor, President Jiang Zemin, 70, has refused a special request by Mr Zhao, who lives under a form of house arrest here, to attend the ceremony at Babaoshan Revolutionary cemetery, Chinese sources said yesterday.

It has been suggested that Mr Zhao might be released and again play a role in government, although he is in his mid-seventies. However, Mr Jiang may see him as a potential challenger.

Soldiers in green uniforms yesterday practised carrying an empty glass coffin at the cemetery in western Beijing. Two officials said the preparations were for Mr Deng's cremation.

After the cremation, Mr Deng's ashes will be placed in an urn and presented to his widow and children before the official funeral ceremony tomorrow in front of 10,000 party and government officials and military men in the Great Hall of the People.

Diplomats said the Government apparently wanted to see the nation mourning as one at official ceremonies, uniting behind the new leadership headed by Mr Jiang, a collective that has largely been running the country for the past seven years.

Heavy security was in effect in Beijing last night. Wreath-laying in commemoration of Mr Deng has been banned by state leaders concerned that demonstrations of mourning could turn into anti-government protests, as happened in 1976 and 1989. Several people have already been detained.

Deng Liqun, a veteran hardline ideologue who was critical of Mr Deng's reforms, has been excluded from the 459-member committee planning the funeral service at the insistence of the late leader's family.

Mr Deng's corneas are to be removed before his cremation. Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, will arrive soon afterwards from Japan for talks with Mr Jiang, Li Peng, the Prime Minister, who is thought to have ordered the troops into Tiananmen Square in 1989, and Qian Qichen, the Foreign Minister.

Diplomats said it was a measure of how important Beijing regarded its relations with the United States that the Albright visit was going ahead, despite six days of mourning for Mr Deng.

Her visit — during which delicate issues such as the two Koreas, Taiwan, arms proliferation, intellectual property rights, human rights and trade, will be discussed — comes almost exactly 25 years after Richard Nixon, the late US President, made his ground-breaking trip to China and was received by Mao.



Zhao: request to attend Deng's funeral denied



GREG BAKER / AP

Chinese soldiers carrying a glass coffin yesterday at Babaoshan cemetery in Beijing in rehearsal for the ceremony today at which Mr Deng's remains will be cremated

Last emperor leaves China with an empty throne



Deng Xiaoping made China a superpower but few believe his successors can fill the vacuum, **James Pringle** writes

THE first time I saw Deng Xiaoping was in 1973, in the Great Hall of the People, when he was suddenly restored by Chairman Mao after years in the political and geographic wilderness, to which Mao had consigned him during the Cultural Revolution as the "number two person in authority taking the capitalist road".

The "number one" such person, Liu Shaoqi, then head of state, had been allowed to die in the basement of a government office in the central Chinese city of Kaifeng, without proper food and no medicines.

Mr Deng had survived working in a tractor repair shop and looked rather lost and harmless as he moved down a row of foreign ambassadors, number 12 in the Chinese leadership line-up, wearing a brown Mao suit, white socks and sandals. He would, however, go on to transform China into the superpower it is now.

Mr Deng lived in Half Moon Alley in a functional brick house, spacious but seemingly fairly modest, amid the ordinary *Lao Bai Shing* (old 100 names), as the common people of China are called. He was unpretentious. He never went in for a personality cult or smart Western suits and dyed hair like the present ageing leaders, who have not a grey hair among them though most are over 70.

Last week, when I broke the news of Mr Deng's death to a taxi driver taking me to Tiananmen Square, the driver took in the news with the calm by which it was received by most Beijing citizens, who nevertheless acknowledged their debt to Mr Deng.

Tiananmen Square was deserted. However, at the end of Mr Deng's lane three soldiers in battledress and armed with AK47 rifles accompanied a policeman who peered into the taxi.

This was visible proof that the Deng era was over. A cartoon in Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post* summed it up: it showed an armchair, with lace antimacassars, an ashtray stuffed with cigarette butts, and an enamel spittoon which the diminutive Chinese leader used with relish, often to emphasise a point, after thunderous hawking; the armchair was empty.

Mr Deng leaves a vacuum. With Mao and Zhou Enlai, Mr Deng had repulsed the Japanese and restored China's place in the world. As Mao himself said in 1949 from the Tiananmen Square rostrum: "China has stood up." After a brief interregnum of peace in the early 1950s, however, Mao introduced the horrors of the Great Leap Forward in which 30 million people died in a famine, and then the chaos of the Cultural Revolution.

It was Mr Deng who cleared up the mess and who has doubled the income of Chinese people in real terms over the past 18 years, making China rich and powerful, but he also cracked down on student protesters in June 1989 when hundreds were massacred. And it is in his name that Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan, the human rights activists, are serving long jail terms for what a majority of countries regard as normal political activity.

Mr Deng's successors are lesser men, bland and sleek, who never fought in China's wars, and lack the legitimacy of Mr Deng, who is due to be cremated today without a lying-in-state or a funeral cortège with the masses paying their last respects.

The people, in whose name the People's Republic was founded, have been shunted aside, and only 10,000 hand-picked members of the Chinese nomenklatura will be present at a memorial service tomorrow in the Great Hall. The people, as Bertolt Brecht might have said, have been "abolished".

In fact after the Great Leap and the Cultural Revolution, it is hard to see what legitimacy the Communist Party has here at all, as Marxists who practise the "socialist market economy" are surely a contradiction in terms.

President Jiang Zemin, Mr Deng's chosen successor, has been running China as the "core" of the new leadership since Mr Deng faded into the background in the early 1990s. In the past year, Mr Jiang, 70, has been pushing a campaign called "spiritual civilisation" designed to reinforce the hardline rule of the party for fear that communist rule in China will go the same way it did in Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

More than 2,000 people have been executed in the past year in a crackdown on crime, though not one has been among the high-level officials accused of corruption.

Most people are content just to follow the party line to keep out of trouble, in contrast to a decade ago, or even two years ago, when China was more open. Chinese officials often complain that China does not win Nobel prizes, but it is hardly surprising in a country where creative thinking is anathema to the state. After all, overseas Chinese scientists do well in the Nobel stakes.

"Deng was a ruthless old dictator, but he had vision and transformed China," one diplomat here said. "Suddenly the whole area at the very heart of the Chinese State has gone. There is just a great big hole there. Chinese have to follow the party line, but you hardly hear anyone say they are confident that the insecure men who have succeeded Deng are big enough to fill his shoes."

Hong Kong's Bill of Rights to be diluted

Beijing: China's legislature voted yesterday to water down Hong Kong's civil liberty laws, saying they contradict the constitution Beijing drafted for the territory after it returns to Chinese control.

Beijing has long vowed that it would gut the laws, despite protests from Hong Kong's democrats and Chris Patten, the Governor. The state-run Xinhua News Agency reported that the standing committee of the National People's Congress voted to strike out 14 laws completely and clauses of ten others. The committee decided that Hong Kong's Bill of Rights, which guarantees freedom of speech and assembly and other civil liberties, would no longer have supremacy over other laws, Xinhua said. The committee said two other ordinances — on public demonstrations and forming associations — would need to be greatly revised.

Beijing claims that the Bill is no longer needed because its right are guaranteed by the Basic Law, the constitution that will take effect after July 1. Under the Basic Law, police approval will be needed for public protests and local groups will need permission to associate with foreign organisations. Congress said most of the existing laws will remain in effect. Many of the changes were cosmetic, removing references to the Queen or the word "royal", Xinhua said. (AP)

Pyongyang changes leaders

FROM REUTER IN SEOUL

NORTH Korea may be in the throes of a power struggle, media reports suggested yesterday after Pyongyang signalled a major leadership shake-up.

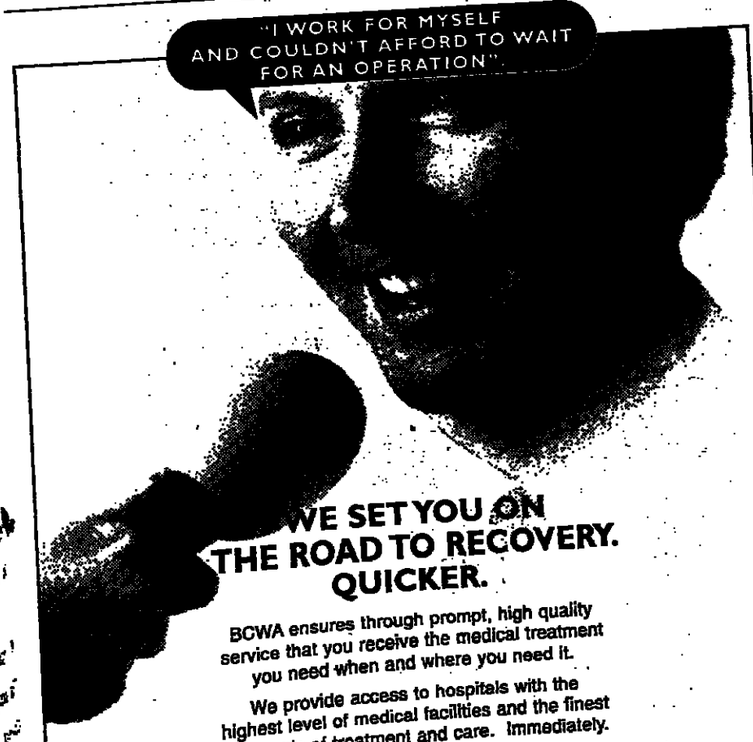
In an apparent attempt to show that Kim Jong Il, the country's leader, was still in charge, Pyongyang Radio reported his first public appearance since the recent defection of Hwang Jang Yop, one of his closest advisers. Cracks have appeared in the hierarchy of the secretive Communist nation, which has already been destabilised by food shortages, since Mr Hwang's defection to South Korea's embassy in Beijing on February 12.

Kang Song San, the Prime Minister, was replaced last Friday. On Saturday, North Korean media reported that Choe Kwang, the 78-year-old Defence Minister, had died. The line-up of his funeral committee indicated that the three recent departures were just the latest in a series of exits among the ruling elite. The changes have added weight to speculation of a power struggle as Mr Kim prepares to assume the titles of President and general secretary of the ruling Workers' Party, which have been vacant since the death of his father, Kim Il Sung, in 1994.

There was no official explanation for the departure of Mr Kang, although he was known to be ailing. Mr Choe died of a heart attack.

The latest list of 85 names announced by the official media shows that up to a third of the top 30 positions have changed hands in the past two years.

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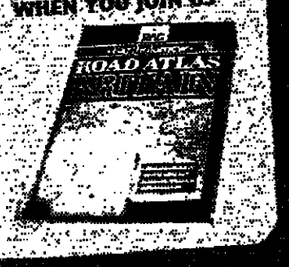
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Ekeus: has won his own way over missile tests

Iraq will let UN take away missiles

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN BAGHDAD

IRAQ has agreed to turn over missile parts to the United Nations, ending a long-running dispute with UN inspectors charged with destroying them.

Word of the agreement came in a joint statement yesterday after meetings between Iraqi officials and Rolf Ekeus, the chief UN inspector, who is visiting Baghdad, the Iraqi capital. Mr Ekeus has repeatedly accused Iraq of misleading his inspectors and has demanded that Baghdad allow the UN to test debris from destroyed missile engines in the United States.

Mr Ekeus has said Iraq may have removed and hidden Russian-built engines or engine parts and replaced them with virtually useless Iraqi-made pieces before destroying the missiles.

Sweeping UN sanctions were imposed on Iraq after Baghdad invaded Kuwait in 1990, prompting the Gulf War. UN diplomats have said they will not consider lifting the sanctions until Iraq co-operates fully with UN monitors working to dismantle Iraq's chemical and biological weapons and long-range missiles.

The statement published yesterday did not say when the parts would be removed or where they would be tested. However, it made clear that the material would be put under UN authority. "Iraq agreed to the removal of remnants of proscribed missile engines," said the statement, which was signed by Mr Ekeus and Tariq Aziz, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister.

Mercenaries called in for raid on Bougainville rebel base

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY AND INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

MERCENARIES have flown to Papua New Guinea to mount a covert military operation against rebel leaders on the island of Bougainville.

Up to 150 men have been training in the remote township of Wewak for the past fortnight in readiness for an attack on rebel headquarters.

The Government decided to call on foreign assistance after failing to find a peaceful solution to the bloody, nine-year secessionist conflict. Senior Papua New Guinea officials confirmed that they had hired mercenaries from Sandlines International, a subsidiary of Executive Outcomes, the South African-based firm, which is also represented in London.

The planned military operation could severely embarrass Australia which provides more than £150 million of aid to the country.

Executive Outcomes was not available for comment last night. The origins of the company are unclear. A British intelligence report records that it was registered in the United Kingdom in September 1993 by Anthony (Tony) Buckingham, a British businessman, and Simon Mann, a former British officer. Mr Buckingham has denied any "corporate link". He is a veteran of the Special Air Service (SAS), is a close friend of Sir David Steel, the former Liberal Party leader, and apparently has extensive business interests in Angola and elsewhere.

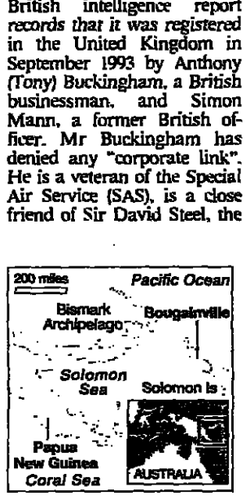
In 1993 Mr Buckingham and Mr Mann met Eeben Barlow, a veteran of the Angolan war and former officer in the South African Defence Force. During the apartheid years Mr Barlow also worked in the Government's "dirty tricks" department.

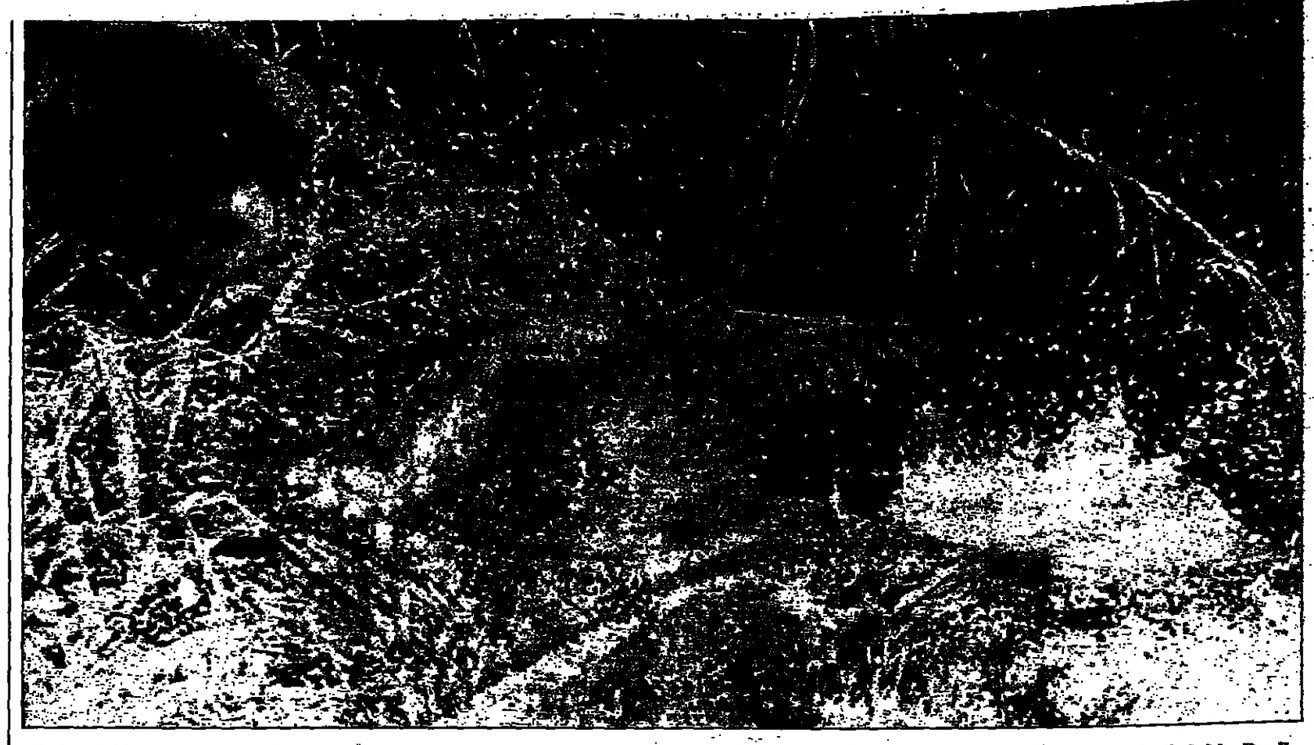
Mr Barlow, the head of Executive Outcomes, has been at pains to emphasise that his company will only assist legitimate governments. Operations in Angola and Sierra Leone have been wound up, leaving men available for operations elsewhere.

News of plans for a "surgical strike" on Bougainville by foreign mercenaries leaked out during a visit to Papua New Guinea by Alexander Downer, the Australian Foreign Minister. Two military cargo aircraft which have been flying in troops and equipment for the past two weeks were spotted at the airport in the capital, Port Moresby, as Mr Downer arrived. The planes were on charter to Sandlines International. Sandlines is best known for its sophisticated military operations in Africa and the company is also believed to have links with Malaysia and South Korea.

The Bougainville conflict is one of the world's least reported wars, although hundreds of people have died in the fighting since a declaration of independence by separatists in 1988.

Their action forced the closure of the giant Panguna copper mine, which is one of the biggest open-cast mines in the world, and accounted for 40 per cent of Papua New Guinea's export earnings.





AP

Man rescues daughter from crocodile attack

Sydney: This is the moment a female worker at a wildlife park in northern Australia was attacked by a 15 ft long crocodile and miraculously survived (Roger Maynard writes).

Tourists watched in horror as Karla Bredl, who only minutes earlier had been feeding the reptile, was grabbed around the leg and then the waist after she fell.

As the crocodile, named Solomon, tried to pull her into the water, the 21-year-old park attendant's father, Joe, jumped on its back and gouged its eyes. He then grabbed a rake and beat the crocodile about the head in an attempt to force it to open its jaws.

Last night Miss Bredl was in intensive care at Mackay hospital in Queensland, where she was being treated for a broken pelvis, a fractured leg and internal injuries. The hospital said her condition was stable. Doctors said Miss Bredl's injuries would have been worse had Solomon not lost most of his teeth in fights with other crocodiles and because of a calcium deficiency.

Miss Bredl, an attendant at the family's Barefoot Bushman Wildlife Park in north Queensland, had been joking about the crocodile's lack of teeth with the audience only a few seconds earlier. "If I ever get grabbed, I'd rather it be this one," she laughed.

"Then she slipped and it was on her," Rob Bredl, her uncle, said. "But she's a bright spark. As they pulled her out, she said, 'I'm bloody glad he's got no teeth'." Mr Bredl said: "When Solomon grabbed her across the pelvis, the rake was doing nothing so my brother said, 'bugger it'. Joe was belting it around the eyes with the rake but it wasn't doing any good. So he jumped on its back in the water and he was wrestling it, trying to stick his thumbs in its eyes and finally it let go."

The family do not plan to destroy the crocodile, which is said to have a fairly placid nature. "He usually won't eat anything with bones in it," Mr Bredl added.

Miss Bredl told relatives last night that she wanted to return to work as soon as possible.

Zaire guerrillas take mining town

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN KISANGANI

THE Zairean rebel forces of Laurent Kabila advanced further towards the northeast military headquarters here, taking another town and causing about 25,000 Rwandan refugees to flee into the forest, government officials said yesterday.

The Ministry of Defence conceded the town of Kalima, a small mining town about 180 miles south of Kisangani, to rebels on Saturday. "It is probable that the rebels have taken over control of Kalima," Likulia Bolongo, the Defence Minister, said in a statement. "What is surprising is the systematic chase of the refugees by the rebels." Most of the refugees are Rwandan Hutus who have been on the road since the 1994 Hutu-orchestrated slaughter of a half-million Rwandan Tutsis. They are reluctant to return home for fear of reprisals by the Tutsi-led Government in Rwanda.

Refugee workers fear the guerrillas will go on to attack the 160,000 people in the Tingi-Tingi refugee camp, 150 miles southeast of Kisangani. Mr Kabila claims Zaire's Government has armed former Rwandan Hutu soldiers and militiamen among the refugees at the camp. Mr Kabila, whose fighters have captured a 900-mile strip in eastern Zaire, had threatened a new offensive if the Government had not begun peace talks by midnight on Friday. International efforts to bring both sides to the negotiating table in South Africa appeared to be stalled again yesterday.

The rebellion in Zaire is aimed at ousting President Mobutu, whose 31-year dictatorship has left mineral-rich Zaire among the world's poorest countries. Mr Mobutu, who returned to France on Friday night, presumably for more treatment of his prostate cancer, ordered yet another shake-up of his military command before he left. He named General Mosala Mondja Dongo as commander of the Lower Zaire region, replacing General Mulumba Ambote.

Leon Kalima, a defence spokesman, accused the rebels of going back on pledges to halt fresh attacks until peace talks in South Africa could begin. "Kabila says he wants to negotiate. Meanwhile he's continuing to attack."

Apartheid war expert rehired

Johannesburg: The Defence Ministry admitted at the weekend that the ANC-led Government had re-employed Wouter Basson — the man behind the apartheid chemical warfare programme and an alleged drug dealer — three years after he was dismissed (Inigo Gilmore writes).

The admission was made by Ronnie Kasrils, the Deputy Defence Minister, who said it was done "in the national interest". Mr Kasrils said it was the only way to "bring him under control".

Bus boys shot

Rio de Janeiro: Four gunmen murdered five street boys in front of commuters here. Witnesses said the boys, aged between 12 and 17, were dragged off a bus, lined up and shot for having no tickets.

Pacific rescue

Wellington: Rescue ships were heading for 25 people in liferafts and a dinghy in the South Pacific after their trading ship caught fire in the Cook Islands group. There were no injuries. *(Reuter)*

Love in the air

Nairobi: A Belgian aged 21 was fined £100 here for loudly declaring his love for an air hostess on a flight from Amsterdam. He said he was from a strict Islamic family and had not had alcohol before. *(AFP)*

More than 100 killed as fire breaks out at Hindu festival

FROM COOMI KAPOOR IN DELHI

AT LEAST 100 people died and hundreds more suffered severe burns in a fire that broke out yesterday at a Hindu gathering in the eastern state of Orissa.

The final death toll is still not known. While Sanjaeev Hota, the State Home Secretary, put the number of dead at 110, some news agencies reported more than 200 fatalities. The Director General of Police in Orissa, admitted that "the toll is going up all the time".

A large number of bodies are still under the debris and the accident occurred in a remote part of the countryside.

The fire, fanned by strong winds, was apparently caused by an electrical fault. Within seconds it destroyed the makeshift meeting hall packed with devotees. Nearby straw-walled huts designed to serve as rest houses were also destroyed.

The religious conclave of about 12,000 people took place in the village of Madhuban, a few miles from the town of Baripada, and was held to honour Swami Nigamananda, the head of a religious sect, whose death is commemorated every year.

The devotees were largely poor villagers from the neighbouring areas, including the adjoining state of Bengal. Baripada, which is about 1,250 miles southeast of Delhi, was overwhelmed by the disaster as the town has only two fire engines.

When the fire broke out people rushed in panic to the single exit. Many died in the stampede.

An inquiry has been ordered by J.B. Patnaik, the Chief Minister, who has announced that compensation of 15,000 rupees (£280) will be paid to the relatives of the victims. Doctors have been rushed from neighbouring towns to the site.

Helicopters rescue 93 in Thai blaze

Bangkok: Helicopters battled strong winds yesterday to pluck 93 people from the top of a blazing 36-storey building under construction in the centre of the Thai capital, police said.

Two others died and a third was seriously injured after they jumped in panic from the seventh floor of the President Tower. A fourth body was later found inside the building.

A helicopter pilot carrying three people to hospital narrowly averted further tragedy after the aircraft's rotor blade hit high-tension wires near the hospital. He made an emergency landing in a sports field nearby. *(Reuter)*



A worker is lifted to safety from the fire

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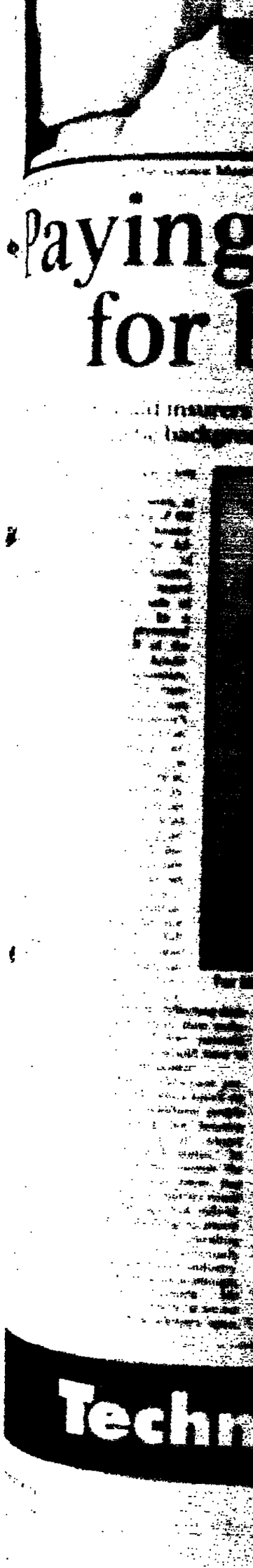
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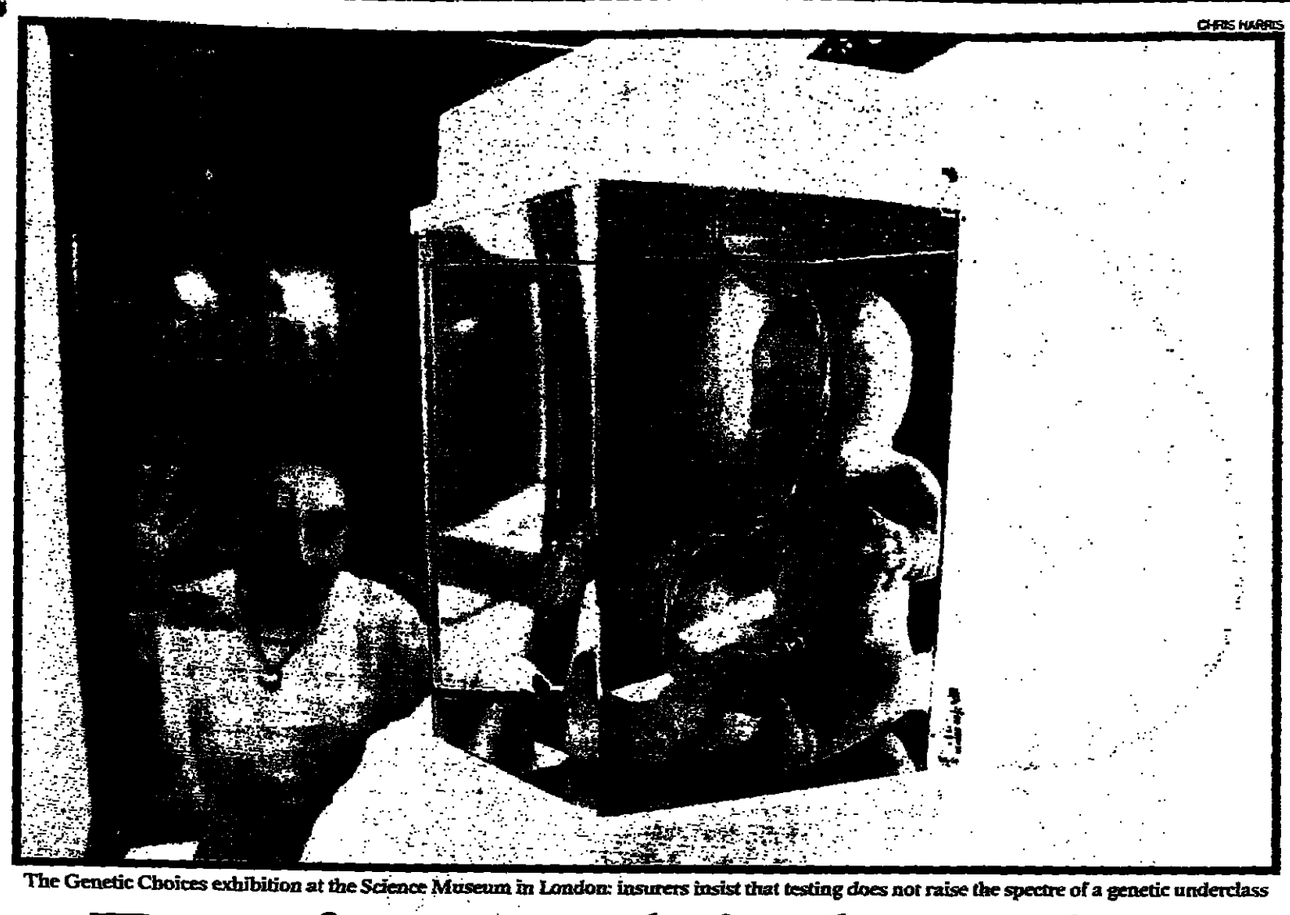
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CHRIS HARRIS

The Genetic Choices exhibition at the Science Museum in London: insurers insist that testing does not raise the spectre of a genetic underclass

Paying a high price for bad genes

Should insurers have the right to know about our genetic background? Report by **Anjana Ahuja**

Hanging around the Science Museum in London may not be the most scientific way to conduct a poll, but within half an hour a clear consensus was emerging. The question was simple: should insurance companies have the right to know the results of genetic tests?

The Association of British Insurers ruled last week that people applying for life insurance would have to reveal whether they had taken a test, and, if so, disclose the results. However, the association declared that until 1999, people taking out life policies linked to mortgages worth up to £100,000 would not have to reveal test results. After that date, mandatory genetic testing might be introduced. Visitors to the *Genetic Choices?* exhibition at the museum, which opened last month, were unanimous in their disapproval.

"It's not fair," says Barbara Rogers, 40, a special needs care worker from Milton Keynes. "If somebody has 'bad' genes it's not their fault, so how can it be fair to discriminate against them? My partner is a diabetic — these things just happen. I think this development would discourage people from taking tests in the first place."

Annabel Harle, 46, a translator from Cardiff, says the decision penalised those who were concerned about their health. "Many people want to take these tests so they can make the right life choices, or protect their children. It is dreadful that some people will be left out because of it.

"I think the insurance industry has to think carefully about what it is doing. After all, having the tests shouldn't necessarily make a difference. There is still the same number of diseases and the same spectrum of risk. People can still drop dead tomorrow. And, anyway, the insurance business is based on risk. By demanding test results, they would be getting higher premiums for less risk."

But last week, at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Seattle, delegates heard the other side of the story. In a paper presented on behalf of the American Academy of Actuaries, David Christianson, the chairman of the academy's Task Force on Genetic Testing, argued that, to continue to exist, the insurance industry needs to operate on a level playing field. It depends on full disclosure to calculate how low it can set its premiums. High-risk individuals, who did not declare the full facts, would have an unfair financial advantage. If these individuals did not pay a premium reflecting their high-risk position, their inclusion would distort payouts, and premiums would have to rise across the board.

This, Mr Christianson predicted, would have a knock-on effect. "The healthiest people start dropping out because their premiums no longer reflect their risk status," he says. This would narrow the pool of risk, and mean that those taking out policies would probably be high-risk individuals, again pushing up premiums. This cycle of spiralling premiums might eventually topple the insurance industry.

That seems rational enough, if slightly dramatic. Mr Christianson went on to set out why, in the academy's opinion, testing does not raise the spectre of a genetic underclass: insurance companies still need to insure people to make money, so are unlikely to turn customers away; stiff competition means that premiums will have to be reasonable; genetic testing may clear people previously classed as uninsurable, because of their family history; new treatments are always being developed.

"I feel the fears have been exaggerated," Mr Christianson says. "For one thing, there aren't many tests, and people who do test positive, say for breast cancer, are still able to get insurance at reasonable rates. My main concern is that people will choose not to be tested in the first place. However, somebody has suggested the idea of mandatory genetic insurance, which you take out *before* you have a test. That insures you in case you do test positive."


For life: will testing lead to discrimination?

However, the bottom line is that those with "bad" genes are likely to end up paying more than those with "good" genes. Onora O'Neill, a moral philosopher at Cambridge University, says in this week's *New Statesman* magazine: "Actuarial fairness seeks to place the costs of misfortune on the unfortunate, and this is quite different from placing the costs of bad driving on bad drivers." Others maintain that such a policy is in operation already, since applicants are routinely questioned about their family's medical history and, in some cases, undergo cholesterol and blood pressure tests. The inclusion of genetic test results, say advocates, will simply make the whole procedure more sophisticated.

Dr Maurice Super, a consultant geneticist at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, begs to differ. Tomorrow he is opening the world's first Gene Shop, a drop-in centre aimed at educating the public on the issues raised by genetic testing. Dr Super and his colleagues have a "gut feeling of unease" over this issue, because people may shun testing if they think they may suffer financially. "It puts such a negative slant on testing," he says. "There is great nervousness among certain groups of people who suffer genetic disorders. Some will be prepared to hide medical information from their doctors, so that their insurers don't find out. That is a terrible thing, and it all comes down to money."

Dr Super offers a different solution: raise everbody's premiums to subsidise those who are genetically unfortunate. "It may be idealistic, but if we live in a caring society, we should be prepared to subsidise others. In fact, we do this already with the National Health Service. The NHS would be in clover if we chose not to treat chronic disease, but we still do. We should show the same solidarity in the case of genetic testing."

David Freer, 52, who was taking his 10-year-old daughter Beulah around the exhibition, shared Dr Super's unease, and approved his idea of levying higher insurance premiums to avoid discrimination. But he acknowledged that there was an unfairness in penalising people "whose genes are okay".

The issues are complex and emotive, but there is concern that people are not sufficiently informed about this fast-moving field. "The tests are racing ahead faster than we can deal with the implications," says Mr Christianson.

Indeed, many are already coming face to face with the implications. At the Science Museum, I bumped into Rachel Rose, a 37-year-old mother of two from Amersham in Buckinghamshire. She had been refused life insurance: "I had a kidney transplant and am now on dialysis, which is why I can't get cover.

"The relative who donated a kidney to me had to take an HIV test. The test proved negative, but they didn't tell their insurance company because of the fear of discrimination."

● *Additional reporting by Perry Cleveland-Peck*

DNA worries ☐ Soyuz solution ☐ Innate tunes

Rogue heart risk


SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

LAST year American scientists caused a flurry by announcing the discovery of a gene that makes its carriers old before their time. Sober observers this side of the Atlantic refused to get too excited, arguing that Werner's syndrome, the condition caused by the gene, is not necessarily a true model of normal ageing, and giving warning that the implications of the discovery had been exaggerated.

Maybe, but a result reported at the Seattle meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science does imply that the gene is important in the population at large. A team led by Dr Tetsuro Miki of the Department of Geriatric Medicine at Osaka University has shown that among Japanese, at least, one variant of the gene is strongly linked to the chances of having a heart attack.

Werner's syndrome, first described by the German physician Otto Werner in 1904, is a grim condition. Sufferers appear normal until adolescence, when they begin to age very rapidly. They stop growing, their hair turns grey, and they suffer the degenerative diseases of old age. The average lifespan of a Werner's sufferer is 47, and the commonest cause of death is a heart attack.

The gene responsible codes for an enzyme called a helicase, whose job it is to unwind the strands of the double helix of DNA by breaking hydrogen bonds that hold them together. This process happens all the time in cells, in processes such as DNA replication and repair. Any failure in these mechanisms would lead to the slow accumulation of errors.

The new research, which has been published in the *American Journal of Medical Genetics*, compares the frequency of variants of the gene in a group of Japanese heart attack victims and a matched control group. The majority of the people examined have the amino acid cysteine at one position in the enzyme, while a minority have an alternative, arginine. This is caused by variants in the gene, and since we have two copies of each gene, this means there are three possibilities. We can have helicase enzymes that contain only arginine or cysteine, or we can have a 50:50 mixture of the two.

Among the Japanese group, the great majority, 85 per cent, had arginine. But the other two genetic possibilities were much commoner among the healthy control group than among heart attack victims. Having either of these combinations appears to reduce your risk of a heart attack by a factor of almost three.

Dr George Martin of the University of Washington, a co-author of the study, says that it urgently needs to be confirmed in a different population. But the results do suggest, he says, that variations in the efficiency of DNA repair could contribute to the risk of heart disease. Says Dr George Roth of the US National Institute on Ageing: "It's fascinating that there is such a link, if it holds up."

Russian rocket may rescue Europe


THE Cluster mission, buried in a swamp in French Guiana by the failure of its Ariane 5 launcher last June, may yet rise again by courtesy of a Russian Soyuz rocket. Attempts to rescue the four-satellite mission to the Earth's magnetosphere looked doomed for lack of money until the Soyuz idea popped up at a meeting last week of the European Space Agency's science programme committee.

The hope is that using Soyuz rockets would save enough money for ESA to pay for new Cluster instruments, normally the responsibility of the member governments. Several, including Britain, have said they cannot afford any new instruments, which had seemed to rule out a rescue for Cluster. If the figures work out, it will be the first time a Russian rocket has ever been launched from a Western site.

Birds born with a song in their hearts


BIRDS hatch from their eggs with their songs already ringing in their ears, says Dr Peter Marler of the University of California at Davis. Very few learn by imitation: the bulk seem to have their songs "hard-wired" into the structure of their brains.

Of 27 orders of birds, he told the AAAS meeting in Seattle, only three learn by imitation — parrots, hummingbirds, and passerines, which include the sparrow. And even sparrows seem to have a head start. From the beginning they respond to a wide range of short bursts of their own species' song. "They recognise even a small fragment — just a few notes of a song — even when they're only two weeks old," he said.

A similar mechanism may underlie human babies' remarkable ability to learn language, lending support to the view that the language instinct is innate.

Eat fish, tan safely

Anjana Ahuja on an intriguing way to avoid sunburn

IF you are planning to bask in the Caribbean sun this summer, eat plenty of mackerel before you go. A new study at Liverpool University has indicated that the polyunsaturated fatty acids (pufas) found in oily fish can act as an internal sunblock. The researchers are now embarking on a more detailed study, funded by a £60,000 grant from the World Cancer Research Fund.

Intrigued by a study last year showing that pufas could protect against damage to muscle by destructive chemical groups called free radicals, Peter Friedmann, professor of dermatology, wondered whether eating the oils could protect against skin cancer. "Free radicals are also implicated in skin damage and skin cancer," he says.

He used a simple guide — the redness associated with sunburn, which is a measure of skin damage. He first exposed volunteers to ultraviolet (UV) light and measured the result. Volunteers were then fed capsules containing pufas. When subjected to the same dose of UV light three months later, the volunteers suffered less sunburn. Ten capsules a day for three months gave the same protection as a factor three suncream. Slight side-effects were nausea and flatulence.

"It's not the same as using a factor 20 sunblock, but a threefold increase in protection over a lifetime is extremely significant," Professor Friedmann says. "The process involved in sunburn is the same that induces skin cancer over a long period of time. We later came across similar research on mice, which showed that pufas could protect against not only skin cancer but also against carcinogens. That's because free radicals cause damage to DNA, which can induce cancerous mutations." The commercial spin-offs could be tremendous — the active chemical could be incorporated into a margarine.

The new study will look at damage to DNA and genes, both excellent markers for skin cancer. The 75 volunteers will be split into three groups. One will be fed fish oil capsules. The other two groups will be given other oils which do not contain pufas.

One remarkable effect, Professor Friedmann says, was the improvement seen in people who suffer from sun-induced skin rashes. "Some have come out in the daylight for the first time." Initial results are expected next year.

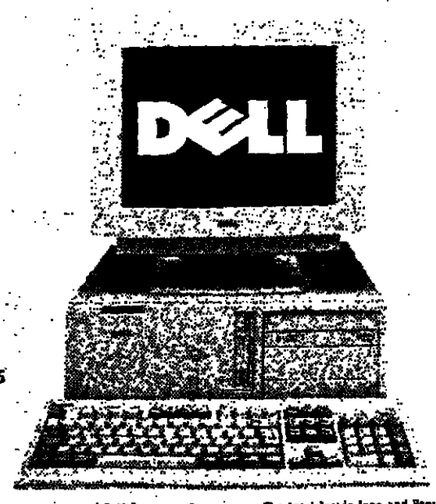
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Rent-a-bed Washington

Life in the US capital is in such a state of flux that even the furniture is rented. **Bronwen Maddox** reports



Cort, which claims to be America's national furniture rental company, promises a look that will appeal to the most upmarket aspirations

"It's all rented," I find myself saying as people come into the living room. But if they live in Washington DC, there is no need to explain. They know rented furniture when they see it.

Alan Clark would not approve, having damned those who buy their own furniture rather than inheriting it. But in the transient community of the American capital, there is a camaraderie among those of us who rent not just our houses but our chairs, beds and cushions.

"It's quite a sassy, New York sort of thing to do, not a provincial Washington thing," says one British diplomat, who finally graduated to owning his furniture. He flatters our tribe, though, which is less exclusive than he implies.

On expeditions to dinner parties in the suburbs, I find my eyes sliding past my host's shoulder; I feel instantly at home if I see a grey-and-white striped sofa, the twin of the one in my living room. And I catch myself thinking it lucky I didn't hire the lamp with a transparent base as you can see the gnarled electric cord running through it.



Cort says assembling a household is effortless

A week before I moved to Washington in September, a World Bank friend confided: "You don't need to spend your first weekend buying a sofa. Ring Cort Furniture Rental." I duly dialled the number of "America's national furniture rental company", and was swept up into America's frontier culture, where no one thinks it strange that you might move to a new country with just a couple of suitcases of clothes.

Washington, a town where the only industry is politics, exerts its pull on many professionals only for a few years. Politicians and their aides may be here for as little as two years, if they are members of the House of Representatives, although senators are guaranteed at least six. Then there are 180 embassies, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund with more than 8,000 staff, as well as 3,000 foreign journalists and hordes of lawyers, lobbyists, and consultants.

That flux lends the town an artificial atmosphere. Like the first week at university, everyone is playing house: people welcome guests with a self-conscious grin, while fumbling with the unfamiliar locks on their front door. Anxiety about securing the "right" dwelling runs high; new arrivals fretfully weigh the Chevy Chase neighbourhood against Bethesda, or defensively cite a third baby as the reason for living in unfashionable Virginia. Few resist the fantasy that the New World will bring a new persona. "We've done *bijou* in London; over here, we want to do Dallas," one househunter announced, explaining her craving for plate-glass walls.

For me, though, finding a property was eclipsed by the furniture problem. I let my London house furnished, as is usual in Britain. But the Georgetown house I took on a short lease was unfurnished, as is common here, and shipping out spare family pieces from London would take months. Renting seemed the obvious solution.

According to the rental brochure, assembling a household of objects to suit your taste is effortless. "We can take the same room and create a look that will appeal to the upscale aspirations of any young couple," it declares. "Or we can shift gear and design a tasteful setting around what many consider the most important piece of furniture in any home: the entertainment centre."

In practice, I floundered as I placed my order over the telephone from London, ticking boxes like a takeaway Chinese food menu. My mother's most elegant friend looked over my shoulder doubtfully, frowning at the illustration of a glossy leather suite, rather like the office of an ITV sales director a month after retaining the franchise.

We rejected also the smoked glass furniture of a 1980s-style bachelor flat, and the tableau of a Washington power couple embracing each other in a book-lined dining room. Alas, the couple's clothes were not for hire.

But the effort paid off. When American estate agents say "unfurnished", they mean it; I arrived to find the house stripped of toilet paper, telephone books and ice trays. The only loose objects were magnets on the fridge door bearing the logo "Emergency pest control". Nor was there lighting apart from 15-watt electric candles mounted in pairs on each wall; with bulbs flickering in the erratic current, it looked like a Gothic dungeon, and I fled to the Halogen lights of a nearby hotel.

Then the furniture arrived, and the place was transformed. I readily admit that the sofa and chairs have a municipal air; their large, square cushions are made of a peculiarly springy foam, and even a hefty man leaves no impression. It also took three attempts to find a kitchen table that fitted, to the point where Cort began initiating the calls: "This is Pamela speaking. I just thought you'd like to know that we'll be getting a new table in stock, mahogany with a kind of European look to it."

Nor is renting cheap: I pay about £200 a month. At first it seemed a bargain, judged by British yardsticks such as Habitat. But furniture costs half as much in the United States, where aggressive shopping for the best price is a religion. My American friends' pursed lips let me know that I have broken the rules of their faith.

To their approval, I am now weaning myself off Cort. The ship carrying my crates from England is about to dock in Baltimore, and no doubt I will make the pilgrimage to the out-of-town malls to buy the rest. But after years of owning and repairing household objects, I will miss the brief freedom of having none: the sense that you can send it all away, get back in the covered wagon, and roll on.

Mailer and an Almighty row

A book on Christ's life is evoking cries of blasphemy, says **Jason Cowley**

Just when you thought Norman Mailer, the gnarled, angry, elder statesman of American letters was settling for mellow retirement, he produces his most outrageous book: a first-person account of the life of Jesus Christ.

Married six times and a relentless self-publicist, Mailer has always courted controversy, whether as a bar-room brawler (he famously punched Gore Vidal at a party after, he claimed, his fellow writer had called him an "old Jew"), political radical or aspirant wife-assassin (he stabbed his second wife with a penknife).

But this time Mailer's restless quest for novelty seems to have carried him too far. "Only a megalomaniac like Mailer would have the audacity even to attempt to speak in Christ's voice," says Stuart Burrows, a writer and critic at Princeton University. "The only surprise is that Mailer has chosen to write as the Son of God, not the Almighty Himself. It's a bad business."

Although *The Gospel According to Jesus Christ* will not be published until May, it has aroused the hostility of Christian fundamentalists and the evangelical Right, many of whom have denounced it as an insult and blasphemous without having read it. These are but the first skirmishes of what might become a protracted holy war, similar to that which engulfed Martin Scorsese's *The Last Temptation of Christ*, a film that depicted Christ on the Cross fantasising about making love to Mary Magdalene and bringing up a family.

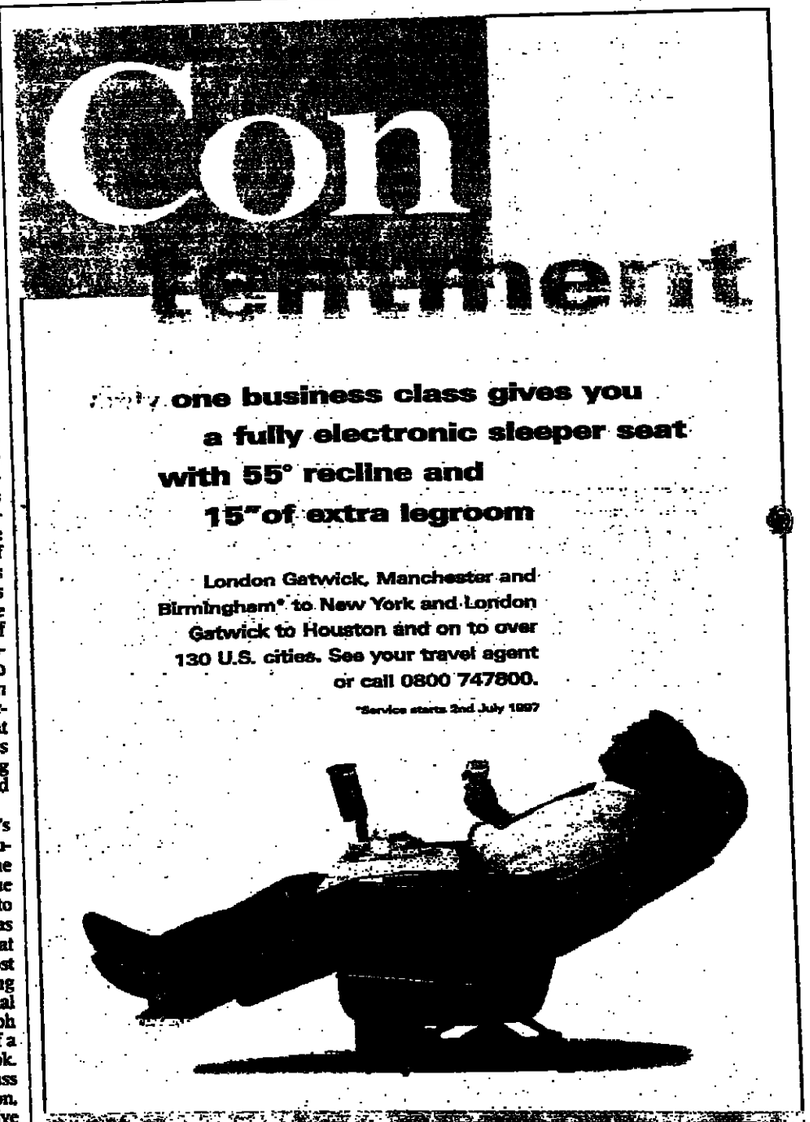
Random House, Mailer's American publisher, is cautious and guarded on the book: its spring catalogue simply says: "As we go to press, Norman Mailer has just given us a short novel that is certain to be one of the most extraordinary and exciting books of his exceptional career." There is a photograph of Mailer but no mention of a title or the subject of the book.

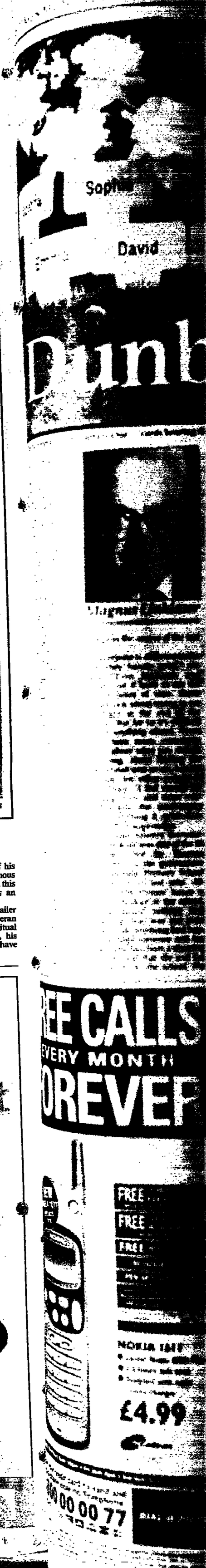
While reluctant to discuss the matter before publication, Mailer issued a pre-emptive statement: "My intent is to be neither pious nor satirical; it is, instead, to make comprehensible for myself what Fulton Oursler once called 'The Greatest Story Ever Told'... I don't wish to arouse interest that cannot be satisfied at this point."

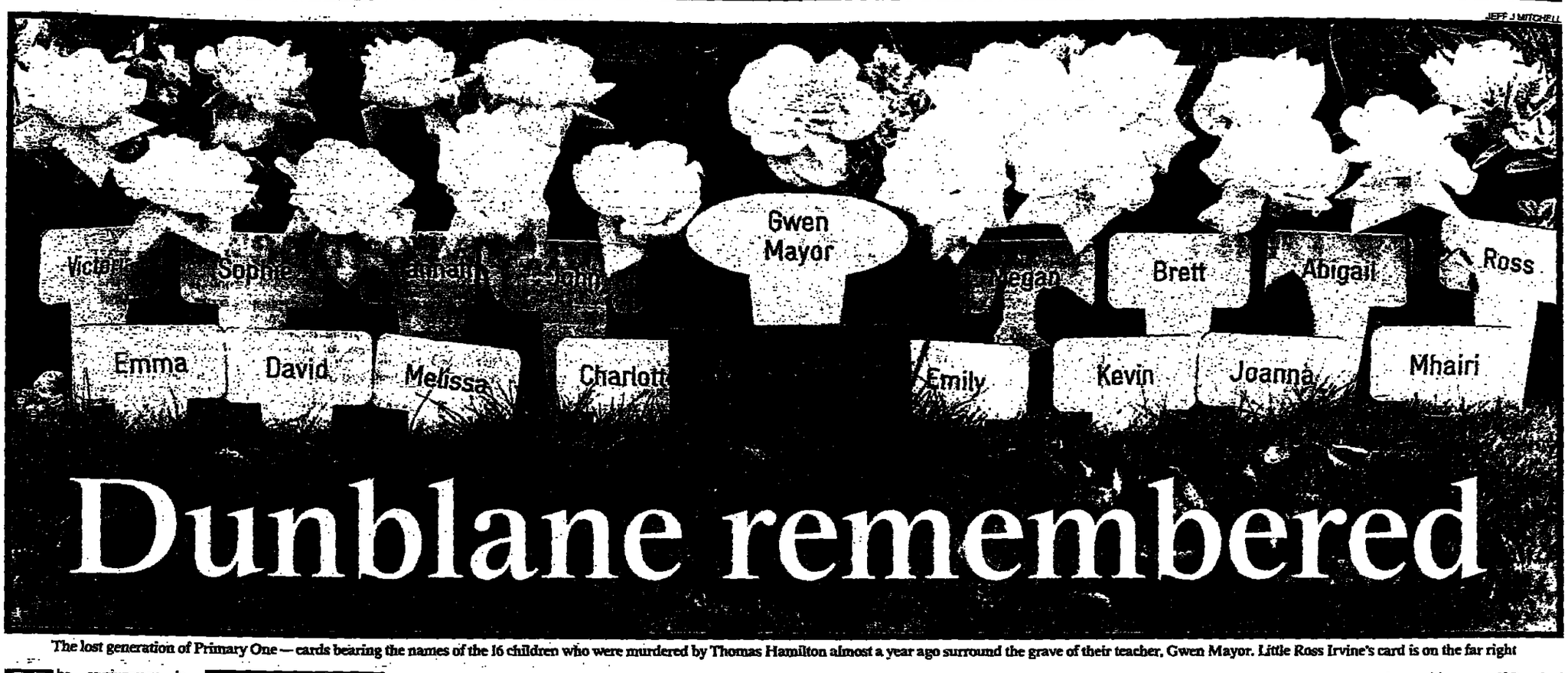
Mailer's long-time editor and friend Jason Epstein told *The New York Times*: "He [Mailer] invented his version of Jesus, which seems to me to be true to the original and at the same time an original creation... Norman's more of a risk-taker than most of his contemporaries. He's famous for the risks he takes. And this book should be seen as an event in his life."

In a recent interview Mailer described himself as a veteran of "emotional and spiritual wars". At the age of 73, his most bitter battle may have just begun.









The lost generation of Primary One — cards bearing the names of the 16 children who were murdered by Thomas Hamilton almost a year ago surround the grave of their teacher, Gwen Mayor. Little Ross Irvine's card is on the far right

Dunblane remembered

One year on — the young couple who lost a son and are still struggling to create a future



Magnus Linklater

The anniversary is looming, like a storm on the horizon. Alison Irvine does not know quite how she is going to face it. She has talked and thought about it endlessly, but the nearer it comes the more it disturbs her. She is aware that the only way to cope with a nightmare is to confront it resolutely, to remember the horror, to face it out. That's easy to say, less easy to carry out in practice. She and her husband Ian decided some time ago to go on a holiday which will keep them away from Dunblane until just before the day itself. But now she doesn't really want to leave. She would prefer to be at home despite, or perhaps because of, the memories, and the pain they carry with them.

They will both be back in Dunblane, however, on March 13. They will return to the school where their son Ross spent his last moments. They will go the cemetery where the other children are buried, and then they will travel to Ayr, where his grave is.

"It's something we have to do," says Alison. When she goes, she will be coming to terms with another and complex set of emotions. Over the new year, she discovered, to her amazement, that she was pregnant, expecting twins. One part of her reacts with joy. Another is overwhelmed by something close to guilt. "I feel disloyal. It can't compensate. Ross is."

Alison is half-American, half-Scot. Her husband Ian is a projects manager at the nearby Motorola plant. She speaks in an attractive Scots-American accent as she tries to describe the grief and suffering that has overwhelmed her family in the course of the last year.

"Everyone is different in the way they handle grief," she says. "Even husbands and wives find it hard to see the other's point of view. Some people talk about trying to see the light at the end of the tunnel. But for us it's difficult to see anything ahead. There have been many comments made about what you should be doing, about finding the way ahead and so on, but it's difficult for other people to understand. I feel myself becoming more and more worried about the anniversary and everything it symbolises as the time approaches."

Ian and Alison's five-year-old son Ross was one of the 16 children shot by Thomas Hamilton in the gymnasium of Dunblane Primary School on March 13 last year. Although the Irvines' house is right next door to the school, Alison heard nothing that morning. She was not even aware that anything had happened until someone told her that there had been a shooting incident and that she and Ian should go to the school. For most of that dreadful morning they sat in a small room, waiting to be told whether their son was alive or dead. They did not even know which class had been attacked, or how many had died. The incident had taken place at 9.30, but it was not until three that afternoon that they learnt the truth.

"Ian suspected," says Alison. "I just went on hoping."

Ross was the elder of their two children. Scott, his brother, was one year younger. They had been inseparable, a loud and boisterous couple of boys in a family which, as Alison sadly recalls, was in all respects as unexceptional as it was possible to be. "We were a normal family; husband and wife and two boys. We worried about normal things. My husband worried about his career, we worried about money, about whether we should be changing our house. Things like that. I remember the Christmas before last, in December, watching a TV programme which had Anton Mosimann on it, and he and his two boys of about 18 were sitting around a Christmas tree. And I remember thinking what lovely boys they were, and thinking that in time that could be me and my two sons ... Then suddenly we were at sea. We had no future."

Scott was convinced that Ross had gone away in a blue car the Irvines had recently exchanged. He kept on asking where his brother was. "He has a vague idea what has happened but he doesn't take it in. He misses his brother a lot."

Ross was buried away from Dunblane in the family graveyard in Ayr. Ten days after the shooting, Alison and Ian went back to the school, where they met the the teachers who had been there on that day and who had done their best to protect the boys and girls of Primary One. Everyone was in tears, promising support and sympathy. But the Irvines have not been able to go back since. "It worries me," says Alison. "We're right by the school, we hear the children at break, and the school bells ringing. But I haven't been able to go there.

"You are in shock to begin with. You feel the full brunt of everything. When you're in shock, you're cushioned from facing the future. Then it dawns on you over the weeks and months that Ross is not going to come back. It's daunting. We've had to realise that Ross is never again going to be a part of what we're doing. All those months and years will go on without him. It's hard to think of them. It's not necessarily worse now, just different. Grief doesn't go away."

Between them they have read as much as they can about how others deal with the loss of a child. "We're avid readers. We both lost our fathers young to cancer, so we know about bereavement. But when you lose a child it overshadows everything else. Especially when it's violent and sudden. Trying to think of what happened is too horrific, but it will always be with us. I can't think of anything that has really helped. We have never come to terms with it. You dip in and out of grief. Some days you can cope, and then you're thrown back into the grief again. We don't look to the future. We go on day by day."

Unlike some Dunblane parents who formed support groups, met regularly and began a very public campaign against handguns, Alison preferred to deal privately with her suffering. She has never got involved in public meetings, has not spoken to the media. "I'm not religious. I've had no comfort from all that. We were referred to a psychologist who is an expert in bereavement counselling, and we went for a few weeks. Ian still goes. It helps him. I don't. I prefer to deal with it myself.

"The Compassionate Friends [a bereavement group] helped. They're a group of people who've been bereaved themselves. What they say is spot on. But I don't go to their meetings. I'm quite a private person. I haven't spoken to many people. I got the impression that the psychologist felt that I should have been coming along faster. But the way I was raised was to have a stiff upper lip, put on a brave face. Inside I feel able to do that. I feel able to be on my own. It's the only way I could have dealt with it. Ian says I should speak to more people. To begin with we talked non-stop. The more I talk the better it is. But he doesn't want to discuss it as much. He has a chance to speak to other people at work."

In the immediate aftermath of the shooting, Ian took two months off work. Then he went back gradually, feeling he needed to do something to give his day some structure. But over the months he has begun to feel it increasingly a strain. Alison wonders how long he will be able to keep it up.

Now something else has come into Alison's life which has turned it upside down — the discovery that she is expecting twins: "I almost fell off the scanning table in shock," she says. There was no history of twins in her family, and her last pregnancy had ended in a miscarriage, so the news came as a bolt from the blue.

To begin with, she did not know how to react. "I'm full of conflicting emotions. When this happened I was stunned — especially having twins. One part of me thinks I'm being compensated for losing Ross. But then I'm annoyed. I don't want to be compensated. I want Ross back. I feel disloyal having another child. It can't compensate. Ross is dead. But then again I think if I didn't have them I would be disloyal as well to his memory. After all, it is a positive event. If Ross had been here he would have been over the moon at having two girls — I'm sure they're going to be girls. It's something to occupy our thoughts with. Things like, should we change house? Better this than that it should never have happened."

Despite that astonishing news, there is still no getting away from the all-pervasive, corroding influence of grief. As she tries to come to terms with it, Alison is increasingly anxious to try to define it, to convey what it feels like for her.

"There seems no future to us as a family, when one of us has gone. You wonder how you can manage. There's such a wide range of emotions. Sometimes you feel violent anger. Sometimes it's suicidal tendencies. You keep going because you have to go on — or take a decision not to. You don't think too far ahead. Grief is a very personal thing."

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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



VISUAL ART

The Barbican revisits the exhibitions of European modern art that fascinated Britain between 1910 and 1914

OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



OPERA

Catrin Wyn Davies is *Gilda* in Welsh National Opera's revival of Verdi's *Rigoletto*

OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



DANCE

Birmingham Royal Ballet celebrates the Sixties with Kenneth MacMillan's *Song of the Earth*

OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



THEATRE

In Leicester, Kathryn Hunter becomes the first woman to play Lear on the professional British stage

OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

Don't keep our libraries on borrowed time

MELVYN BRAGG



Libraries should be open all hours, they croon. Everybody agrees, including librarians who would willingly work shifts if they were properly paid. But, of course, there will be no extra money. Libraries

If public libraries did not exist, then who would be bold enough to invent them today? They are one of the few democratic and available civilising influences throughout the land. Everywhere they are free and yet everywhere they are being put in chains.

Bullish proposals from Virginia Bottomley and Iain Sproat seem to me like shamefaced promises to cover a consistent lack of support for our unique and beleaguered library system. Fig leaves are everywhere in their latest pronouncement, but the nakedness of the Government's library policy cannot be camouflaged.

For instance, there is great insistence that libraries commit to the Internet. This is considered by the Heritage Department — rightly in my opinion — to be of multiple benefit to libraries, not least in bringing in new and younger users and extending the basic information access which is a keystone of our library service. Let there be an Internet, says Mrs Bottomley — and yet the libraries' bid for that very facility has just been turned down by the Millennium Commission, which has surely got something to do with Mrs Bottomley.

It seems almost wilfully cruel to urge the libraries to do something while denying them the means. An amount of £50 million was requested to wire up every library in the United Kingdom to each other and to the Internet. Not as much as was given to the Royal Opera House (good for them); not much more than Sadler's Wells achieved (ditto); and far less than the massive welcome bounty to museums and galleries just announced. Yet libraries extend to every part of the UK. They are and have been the site for students and browsers and readers of all brows for generations. They need as much encouragement as any opera house or museum, so why has the jewel in our country's crown, the palace of wisdom for Everyman, been turned into a Cinderella? Could it be that they are not sufficiently fashionable, being so easily available? Fashion exercises a terrible tyranny: it is far grander to dispel largesse to a glittering institution than to a library on an estate in Blackburn or Bristol or Brentford. Could it be that? I can honestly think of no other reason for this rejection.

Especially when you look at the libraries and lottery funding. If you want to build a new sports hall or new theatre you can get help from the lottery. If you want to build a new library, you *can't*. Libraries are not eligible. Knowledge is of no importance compared with sport or drama. May we ask why? Some of the new government proposals on libraries can only be interpreted as bluster. They can buy more books, we are told, because of the ending of the Net Book Agreement. But surely someone must have whispered to the speechwriter that in one county alone the other week book funds were cut by £1 million; that in Northern Ireland all libraries have had their book funding cut by 50 per cent; that T.C. Farries in the Borders — one of the great library suppliers — has called in the receivers.

Free libraries are the cheapest and fastest way to offer knowledge and the pleasures of the imagination to all on equal terms. It is a noble ideal which should not be allowed to gutter out. It is not difficult to refurbish the library system. Then it could be a wonderful engine for the new Britain, which needs to learn to change and to change through learning constantly. Libraries could be in the vanguard of the brain development, essential to our future. Instead, they are left off every agenda. If some of them look shabby, no wonder. They have been shabbily treated.

It could be very different. Last autumn I was in Lincoln for the official opening of a redevelopment of its Central Library. It is added on to the charming Edwardian structure designed by Reginald Blomfield. The result is inspiring, as much a revelation as the archaeological works that accompanied the redevelopment. Stock has gone up from about 50,000 items to about 95,000. From last June (when it opened) to October there was an increase in the borrowing of children's books of 80 per cent and an overall increase of 44 per cent in items lent to the public. Internet access — the first in Lincolnshire for the general public — has drawn in many new library users.

It is a pleasure to be in the library, to walk around, to pull books from the shelves, and all those I talked to confirmed this. It is a thoroughly modern place which has books as its bedrock but reaches out to future information technologies, as it must. It puts the library back in the centre of the community. It is a bold move by Lincoln County Council, but, alas, a rare one — Carlisle is another such which comes to mind. These buck the trend, which is clearly towards inadequate provision and dwindling stock and eroding service due entirely to lack of care, attention and resources.

Lincolnshire is what can be done. It hums with the quiet purposes of the mind. Would that this hum could penetrate the thick walls of the Department of Heritage with a love of libraries. For, if they do not both exemplify and carry out the purposes of heritage, then what does?

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Così fan tutte
Covent Garden

Any fears that the Jonathan Miller-Giorgio Armani staging of Mozart's comedy might have been a one-off exercise in designer chic were set to naught by Friday's revival. Taken all round it was better than when new two years ago: better conducted, more evenly cast, even more sharply directed by Miller himself, returning to take charge of two separate casts for the run of nearly a dozen performances.

The production is funnier, the humour lasting further into the second act than it did last time, which makes the pitch-black ending all the more shocking. It is also, in the best sense, a heartless production, as heartless as the librettist Da Ponte, which is something of a relief in that a heartful, more Mozartian interpretation can be well-nigh unbearable. The full-length mirror set centre-stage, into which the singers cannot resist glancing, says something very pertinent about the element of narcissism in most protestations of romantic love.

To some extent productions have to choose between being misogynic or misanthropic, and Miller properly opts for the latter: his wine bar yuppie heroes return in disguise as slack-jawed, shambling parodies of US macho, Kurt Russell and Kevin Costner to a tee. Hilarious though they are, the upmarket rag-trade sisters surely deserve better. All of which raises the problem that won't quite go away: the closer the singers get to the world of Armani, the further they are from Da Ponte's syntax.

There are two dazzling comic performances. Rainer Trost (Ferrando) is not only a neat comic (his Kurt Russell parody is spot-on), he is an absolutely brilliant actor *tout court*, catching the character's ambivalence to perfection. His blank-eyed despair after Dorabella's defection was fearful to behold, and he certainly had me fooled into believing he was starting to mature during his seduction of Fiordiligi — but no, in the next scene he was the same heartless git that he was before. And once past a slightly strained *Un aura amorosa* he sang very beautifully as well, with coppery, mellifluous tone.

Alessandro Corbelli's ruefully deadpan Alfonso, benign rather than malevolent, eyes wide open with mock-innocence, is another brilliant character study: he too sings smoothly, and naturally relishes the Italian text.

The women are more conventional, sympathetic and affecting. Soile Isokoski (Fiordiligi) is latest in the current line of Nordic sopranos with pearly, even voices and faultless techniques. Both her arias were extremely well sung, and she blended perfectly with the bright mezzo of Helene Schneiderman, the sharp, lively and likeable Dorabella. William Dazeley's forthright Guglielmo — he was recruited from the alternative cast to stand in for an ailing Bo Skovhus — and Lillian Watson's practised, endlessly resourceful Despina completed a well-chosen cast.

The Viennese conductor Dietfried Bernet drew silky sound from the orchestra and took a generally genial, sunny and singer-friendly view of the score. His overall pacing was cunning: *Così* can seem a long opera, but not on Friday. A very engaging evening, then: those who can't get to the theatre should catch this cast live on BBC2 on March 8.

RODNEY MILNES

DONALD COOPER



A sympathetic duo: Soile Isokoski (Fiordiligi) and Helene Schneiderman (Dorabella) in Jonathan Miller's staging

Send in the clones

GENETIC engineering has obviously progressed further than we thought. How else to account for James Hunter's skill at appropriating the voices of the young Bobby Bland, Ray Charles and Sam Cooke? The British singer-guitarist must be the creation of some demented scientist, driven to despair by the synth-and-drum machine pap that currently masquerades as rhythm and blues.

But Hunter is no lumbering Frankenstein's monster, nor another vapid exercise in retro kitsch. As the Jazz Café's floor filled with dancers, he and his well-drilled band supplied an [redacted] unshowy programme, laden with saxophone riffs, which evoked the unquenchable spirit of Stax, Atlantic and all those other pioneering labels. If Alan Parker ever makes a sequel to *The Commitments*, Hunter deserves to be first in line at the auditions.

After working with Jimmy Witherspoon and the self-styled "King of Rock and Soul", Solomon Burke, he delivered a persuasive collection of original material and cover versions on his album *Believe What I Say*, released last year. Another of his former employers, Van Morrison, made a guest appearance on the disc; Hunter also held his own in a duet with the gospel diva Doris Troy.

Onstage, between crisp guitar breaks, Hunter keeps the soul flame alive, while his treatment of the Ray Noble ballad *The Very Thought of You* is carefully understated. The cheeky-chappy interludes between songs (shades of Joe Brown) make the alchemy even more mystifying.

Ian Shaw approached similar terrain from a jazzier angle in his absorbing solo date at the newly enlarged Pizza Express Jazz Club — perhaps the best room of its kind in London these days. His affectionate tribute to Ray Charles traced the career of Brother Ray with the accompaniment of sonorous church and blues chords at the piano.

Shaw — who has just released an astute collection of vintage material, *The Echo of A Song* — possesses a jazz-soul pedigree that allows him to do full justice to so protean an artist. *One Mint Julep* received a suitably funky reading, and *Makin' Whoopee* had leers a-plenty, in keeping with Charles's own version. And Shaw managed very well without the help of a band, or a hubile clutch of Raelets.

CLIVE DAVIS

CONCERTS: Medieval and modern music in London; and a romantic epic in Manchester

Enigmas old and new

Philharmonia/Salonen
Queen Elizabeth Hall

"WHO dares wins" is not a motto that always works in the concert hall. But Saturday's instalment in the Philharmonia's Ligeti festival was such a bold and crazy piece of programming that it deserved to succeed.

And it did, in two ways. If you had told me that the way to pack the Queen Elizabeth Hall was by prefacing a piece of Sixties avant-garde music-theatre with an hour of 14th-century vocal music, I would have raised an eyebrow. If you had gone on to claim that the medieval stuff offered weird parallels to the surreal vocal world created by György Ligeti six centuries later, I would have raised the other.

Which only shows what a dismal promoter I would make. The logic of the link proved to be as stunning as the quality of the performances. First, Christopher Page's Gothic Voices toured the vocal scene, c.1350: a repertoire of exquisite but baffling beauty, in which poetic conceits of love and loss are dressed up in music of astounding mathematical ingenuity. Gothic Voices were suave rather than impassioned; but this very coolness underlined the music's mystique. We can understand the "how" of the virtuosic techniques used by Machaut and others, and relish the sounds, without having a clue about the "why". They are gripping enigmas.

And so are Ligeti's frantic tragi-comedies, *Aventures* and *Nouvelles aventures*, which also take virtuosic vocal techniques on a mysterious tour. Here, however, the techniques are vintage 1960s: the three singers (Phyllis Bryn-Julson, Rose Taylor and Omar Ebrahim, all terrific) hiss, screech, belch, giggle, gargle and growl, while a few players (expertly directed by Esa-Pekka Salonen) present a shadowy backcloth that has its own riddles (for example, a percussionist dropping a tray of crockery).

Again, the "why" is unclear. But that's the point. This is a skit on human discourse: the chatter which fills our life, yet gives it no meaning. Just once the singers stop, sensing that somewhere out in the instrumental haze is the meaning they seek. Then they get bored, or frightened, and gabble on. Brilliant stuff.

RICHARD MORRISON

Stunningly sober first

Hallé/Rozhdestvensky
Manchester

ONE way to get through Rachmaninov's First Symphony — as Alexander Glazunov apparently did when he conducted the first performance in St Petersburg in 1897 — is to make a few cuts in the score and get drunk before mounting the podium. Another way — as Gennadi Rozhdestvensky did in Manchester a few days short of a hundred years later — is to cut even more of the score and stay sober.

Rozhdestvensky's advantage over Glazunov, apart from his unimpaired reactions, was that he could hear in the First Symphony the many anticipations of the mature Rachmaninov its 24-year-old composer was to become. The massive cuts he made in the second and fourth movements severely reduced the coherence of both of them. It is true. On the other hand, his affection for the work was always apparent, not only in his unembarrassed advocacy of what Rachmaninov himself described as its "bombast" but also in his phrasing of the melodic line. The melodies never quite take the authentic Rachmaninov shape but, inspired by the conductor's eloquent technique, the Hallé Orchestra offered a very plausible illusion.

The only Rachmaninov item in the programme originally advertised was the *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*. It was fair enough to replace Tchaikovsky's *Manfred* with this centenary performance of the First Symphony but perhaps a little unfair also to exclude Sibelius's *Night Ride* and *Sunrise* and to open the concert with Rachmaninov's early fantasy, *The Rock*, instead. Certainly, it was unwise to include so much immature Rachmaninov in the same concert.

The presence of the super-mature *Paganini Rhapsody* did much to compensate, however. When a conductor and a soloist know each other as well as Rozhdestvensky and Viktoria Postnikova they can afford to take risks. It was largely the element of danger that made the performance so exciting. This was the first time that Rozhdestvensky has conducted the Hallé. It was surely an experience they will want to repeat, and so will the audience in the Bridgewater Hall.

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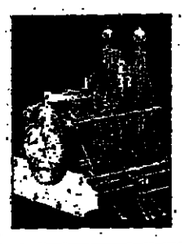
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TELEVISION: Do West End plays work in our living rooms? **James Christopher** on BBC2's new *Performance* season

Performing small miracles



John Sessions and Anthony Calf in Kevin Elyot's dark comedy, *My Night With Reg*, the second play in the 1997 *Performance* season

Ten years ago it seemed that every aspiring playwright had sold his or her soul for soap or succumbed to the Channel 4 chequebook, and the death of theatre was widely predicted. Then a young 29-year-old Royal Court director, nurtured in the long, thin shadow of Max Stafford-Clark, was hired by Alan Yentob (then Controller of BBC2) to make a case for the middle ground. His name was Simon Curtis, and his mission was to marry the production values of high-class studio drama to first-rate theatre scripts.

His brainchild is BBC2's *Performance* season, an annual series of televised plays which celebrates its seventh year by screening four of the most enterprising West End hits of the past two years. The significance of the series resides in its figures. It corners less than 1 per cent of the BBC's total drama budget of £180 million, but it still draws more than a million viewers. Each show featured would have to run solidly for 13 years on stage before it could equal the audience figures of a single television screening.

The 1997 season kicks off with Sam Mendes's production of Stephen Sondheim and George Furth's musical, *Company*. In subsequent weeks viewers can see Kevin Elyot's dark award-winning comedy, *My Night With Reg*, where old university friends contemplate the consequences of dodgy sexual liaisons with the eponymous Reg; David Thacker's production of Arthur Miller's *Broken Glass*; and Fiona Shaw in (and as) *Richard II*.

This laudable televisual enterprise was conceived by Yentob as an injection of class, and on the whole it works. But it has not been an easy ride for Curtis. There are strong prejudices, from the very top down, against television intruding on theatre and vice versa. Richard Eyre, the outgoing director of the National Theatre, did not help the cause in his keynote address to the Theatrical Management Association in Leeds last November. He said: "Theatre on TV can never be regarded as anything but a wholesale dilution of the theatrical original. [It] is like urging a winemaker to popularise the drinking of burgundy through encouraging people to drink Ribena."

> "There are strong prejudices against TV intruding on drama"

Curtis has always seen his brief as trying to make the studio play as fashionable now as *Play for Today* became in the 1970s. While he has succeeded, he has also been outflanked. Since *Middlemarch* BBC drama has undergone something of a revolution. Once the only safe house for the television single play, *Performance* is now having to elbow its way through an army of expensive costume dramas.

"You can't do anything like *Pride and Prejudice* now without the massive country house and the horse and cart," Curtis says. "It's one reason why we've gone for a more contemporary edge this year. Rather than competing and creating our own events, we've collaborated with theatre directors to capture their best work."

The rough and tumble of budgets and tactics has taken its toll on this personable operator. The sprinkling of grey has become something of a waterfall, the chubby exuberance is leaner, some of the youthfulness has turned wary. It is a particularly schizophrenic time for the BBC. The ratings war with the independents has rarely been so hard fought; quality goods keep disappearing off the shelf. And with the predicted explosion of channels there is a threat that programmes such as *Performance* could be taken out of the mainstream and condemned to fiddly, expensive cable channels.

"The point is that while *Performance* doesn't conquer the ratings, there's never been any pressure on us from anyone, ever, anywhere, about the figures," Curtis says. "Two hours every Saturday night is a tough order. But there are now so many weekday dramas that we would be completely dead in the water if we ran against them. It's important that the BBC does things that a few of its licence fee payers really value. That's how I perceive *Performance*. It's a unique service."

A unique service with one or two familiar problems. *My Night With Reg* and *Broken Glass* work superbly as studio dramas, shot for the most part in the rooms for which they were imaginatively intended, but *Company*, taped at the Donmar, is everything Eyre dreads about theatre on television. In the flesh, it is a brilliant musical about that rarest of musical subjects — adult relationships — beautifully unpicked by Adrian Lester and Sheila Gish. On TV, it merely reminds you how artificial theatre is.

Is it worth taking shows like this out of the theatre? "Frankly," says Curtis with some frustration, "even if it's just five people in Britain who see *My Night With Reg*, *Company* or *Broken Glass* I'm going to be happy. *Company* is an experiment. It's something we did differently. All I can say is I sat in the Donmar theatre having one of the greatest experiences of my life. It was a worthwhile experiment."

There will always be arguments about what does and doesn't work on television. But in *Performance* the standard of writing generally exceeds anything else on the BBC schedules, the issues are more interesting, there are greater contrasts of tone and taste, and several seriously classy performances.

More importantly, Curtis's hunches about what sits well on TV have already paid enormous dividends. In previous years you could have seen Branagh in his first television role for more than a decade in Sean O'Casey's *The Shadow of a Gunman*, Jane Horrocks as a prostitute and Les Dawson as a 100-year-old granny in the fabulously funny *La Nona*, Judi Dench in Rodney Ackland's rediscovered masterpiece *Absolute Hell*, and an actors' *Who's Who* that stretched from Gielgud to Hugh Grant in *The Trials of Oz*.

This year there are magnificent performances from John Sessions and David Bamber in Roger Michell's production of *My Night With Reg*, Fiona Shaw in Deborah Warner's *Richard II*, and Mandy Patinkin, Henry Goodman, Margot Leicester and Curtis's wife, Elizabeth McGovern, in David Thacker's production of *Broken Glass*.

If Curtis continues to provide this level of casts and writers, I could forgive him the odd glass of Ribena.

● *Company is on BBC2 Saturday at 8.40pm*

Banality of evil

"IT'S better to lose the odd time than to lose the odd limb," terrorist Ray tells his younger, retarded brother as the pair discuss poker tactics. In games with far, far higher stakes, however, discretion is not always available to the characters in Gary Mitchell's **In a Little World of our Own** (at the Peacock, Dublin). Instead, whatever their choices, they may still find themselves dragged into a Province where losing the odd limb can be considered getting off lightly.

Set in the predominantly Protestant north Belfast area of Rathcoole, Mitchell's brutal, compact drama of mutant morals tells the story of three brothers clinging on to the family home, the refuge of their dying mother, as the world around them turns ever more hostile. Their biggest problem, however, is that violence is not just something that surrounds them, but an activity in which all, to various degrees, take part.

IRISH THEATRE

Almost from the outset, talk is of broken bones and appropriate punishments, and all to soon it turns to the finer points of extracting confessions and the video equipment needed to record it.

Mitchell's crisp dialogue and gracefully deployed diversions serve up these strange ways of thinking as blandly rational. Sour Debra (Andrea Irvine) trusts in the sweet Lord who will, if paid off in faith, provide a confidential advice service, even if her husband (Sean Kearns) is not quite ready to cough up. Meanwhile, on the outlaw side of the fence, Walter, a terrorist gofer, exquisitely pinned down by Lalor Roddy, and Ray (Stuart Graham as a gentle, family-orientated psychopath) trust only in the brutalising virtue of gunmen.

Mitchell's denouement is inevitably Tarantino-esque, but its violence is less lovingly portrayed. When blood flows in Rathcoole it is in the context of a society which has normalised violence.

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The language of hope

Jonathan Sacks prescribes an old antidote to new despair

On March 13, 1996, Thomas Hamilton walked into the classroom of a Dunblane primary school and shot dead 16 young children and their teacher. It was a shocking tragedy, stark and unrelieved. For days the media could speak of little else, but even hardened commentators found it difficult to know what to say. It was a tragedy that swallowed words and robbed them of meaning.

Nonetheless, during those days of mourning, I could not help but notice another and quite different aspect of the national response. Throughout Britain there could hardly have been an individual who did not share in the mood of grief and loss. I felt it wherever I went. These were children we did not know, families we had never met, yet we were caught up in their tragedy as if they were neighbours and friends. For a moment I caught sight of Britain as it is, not as we often think it to be. This was not a nation of individuals living disconnected lives in pursuit of self-interest, but a people united by a sense of fellow-feeling and kinship, joined by a covenant, unarticulated but still immensely strong, of shared suffering and fate.



We have delegated too much of what matters most

Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau and others believed that individuals could act together on the basis of a contract which brought into being a state. They discounted the social in favour of the political. This was a great error. For without trust there can be no contracts, and without moral relationships there is no trust.

I believe that collectively we have delegated away too much of what matters in our lives: to governments, police forces, judges, courts, social workers, managers, teachers, therapists and gurus, each of whom, we suspect, can manage our affairs or conflicts or emotions better than we can. This was understandable, but in hindsight it was wrong. When my car breaks down, I take it to a mechanic because he can diagnose the fault and put it right faster and more accurately than I can. But my car is something I own. My life is something I am, and in handing much of it away I am diminished. There has been prolonged public debate about the rights and wrongs of giving away part of British sovereignty to a European parliament. But there has been almost no debate about the unprecedented handing over of sovereignty over large tracts of our lives to other agencies and experts. It has happened exactly as de Tocqueville predicted it would, slowly, tacitly and without resistance. When the system breaks down, we are liable to despair, because our destiny now rests in other hands, not our own. That is when the politics of delegation must turn again to the politics of responsibility, and of moral institutions.

Morality is the antidote to despair because it locates social change at a level at which we, as individuals, can make a difference — in the acts we do and the relationships we create. Its problems are unlike those of politics — the environment, for example, or the economy or a choice of government. A day's work or absence scarcely affects the gross national product. A single vote rarely makes a difference to the outcome of a general election. That is not to say that these things, and our participation in them, are not immensely important. They are, but to have an effect, our decisions must be matched by a million others not under our control. By contrast, a promise kept, a kindness rendered, praise given, understanding shown: these touch the lives of others and may change them. Certainly they change us.

Morality is the language of hope, for it presupposes that in a critical respect, man is not a part of nature. Because we are speakers of a language we are capable of imagination, of envisaging a reality other than that currently present to the senses. So, for us, there is a difference between "is" and "ought", between the world we observe and the world to which we aspire, and in aspiring begin to make. None of us can make that world alone, but we are not condemned to live alone. Nor, if we are part of a moral community, are we dependent on the whims and passing interests of others. Marriage gives permanence to love. Loyalty gives strength to parenthood. Education becomes a conversation between the generations. Kinship and covenant link us to our fellow human beings so that they know they can rely on us and we know we can rely on them.

If our moral environment is in a state of health, we are surrounded by family and friends, colleagues and neighbours. We know that they will be there for us as we would be for them. In its most human and yet most religious expression, it is trust that lies behind the words "I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me".

It may seem naïve to suggest that the recovery of hope through the re-moralisation of society can solve problems that have defeated some of the world's most powerful governments. But it did so in the past — in 19th-century Britain and America, and at other moments of social crisis.

I find it moving that the Judaeo-Christian tradition, predicated on the sanctity of life, the priority of right over might, and the imperatives of justice and compassion for the vulnerable and disenfranchised, has survived for almost 4,000 years, while the great empires which persecuted its adherents have crumbled and vanished. Societies built on trust have a resilience and adaptability that no political order alone can create. That is why totalitarianisms on the one hand and libertarian cultures on the other initially dazzle, but rapidly expend their energies and inevitably suffer death through decadence.

To be a Jew as the 20th century closes is not to speak lightly of hope. But neither is it accidental that the Hebrew word for hope — *Hatikvah* — gave its name to the national anthem of the reborn Jewish State. The fact that Jews and Judaism survive today is sufficient testimony to the strength of the human spirit, for what Jews can do, so can others.

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● *Tomorrow: the common good. The Politics of Hope will be published on March 6 (Cape).*

The constitutional proposals of the Labour Party do nothing to make up the democratic deficit

Can we win back our democracy?

William Rees-Mogg

I am not sure that Tony Benn would wish to be compared to Edmund Burke, though they both once sat for Bristol seats. In Thursday's Commons debate on the constitution, he was wearing a tie in honour of Tom Paine. There was, though, a passage in his speech of true Burkean eloquence. "People who cannot be disposed of on polling day do not have to listen to anyone. When I go to Chesterfield, every street-sweeper, doctor or home help is my employer, but if a Commissioner goes to Chesterfield or anywhere else, he is above it all . . . I am the member for Chesterfield and proud of it, but I know that my constituents own the powers that I exercise. I do not own them. I cannot borrow the powers from them and give them away."

These two principles are the basis of representative democracy. The legislator must be accountable, and he is so only if he can be removed. The legislator derives his power from the people, and is not entitled to alienate that power, though it may be delegated on a temporary basis. These principles should be the starting point for the discussion of constitutional issues. They bear on the three main matters of the debate: devolution to Scotland, Wales and possibly to the English regions; the House of Lords; Europe.

The devolution issues must be concerned with potential conflict between different democratic structures: in the case of Scotland the danger is the conflict of jurisdiction between the proposed Scottish parliament and Westminster. The House of Lords and Europe raise different issues: in both cases the problem is that the existing structures are not democratic at all.

In the case of the Lords, the Labour Party takes objection to the hereditary element. The trouble is that the life peers are also undemocratic. We have no constituencies; we do not have to refer to any public opinion; we have not been elected by any popular vote; we are appointed for life; we cannot be removed; we are answerable to nobody but ourselves. The Labour proposal is to replace the present mixed House of Lords with a House composed solely of appointed persons. This does not answer the democratic objection at all. The relative impotence of the Lords as a revising chamber follows from its lack of democratic roots. The Lords do not represent the people of Britain. That is what allows the Prime Minister to claim, as he did in opening the Commons debate, that "this House is sovereign".

The Commons is indeed sovereign relative to the House of Lords, except in those matters reserved to the Lords, which include their own procedures, their judicial function and any proposed extension to the life of a Parliament. There the House of Lords is sovereign. Yet John Major should beware of claiming the sovereignty of the House of Commons since so large a part of its power has been handed over to the European Union, much of it by the Treaty of Maastricht which he signed and put through Parliament.

Peter Shore reminded the House how far this power has already gone: "In a written answer on January 28 this year, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster revealed that 236 statutory instruments enacted European Community Directives in 1992. There were 134 in 1993, 198 in 1994 and 211 last year. These statutory instruments are equivalent to Acts of Parliament — they are not regulations. I maintain that the input of Community legislation into Britain is probably greater than that of domestic legislation." If Britain were to join the single currency, and accept the ultimate authority of the non-democratic European central bank, Europe would dominate economic policy as well as this detailed legislation.

Like the House of Lords, the EU is an undemocratic body. The European Parliament, which is indeed elected, neither introduces nor carries legislation. The power to propose lies in the Commission, an appointed body which no electorate can remove. The power to decide lies with the Council of Ministers, an inter-governmental body which acts in secret, often by majority voting which removes decision-making still further from any indivdual European electorate. In respect of the European process, the House of Commons is plainly no longer functioning as a sovereign body, and since the British people exercise their sovereignty through the House of Commons, this loss by the Commons is a loss by the people.

All three parties share the responsibility for this decline of democracy. The House of Lords should indeed be made a more effective and more democratic revising chamber. The work of the last few weeks, when peers from all parties and the cross benches corrected the inadequacies of government legislation on police and crime, reinforces the need for a revising chamber. As John Major said in the debate, "unicameral government" has been "the object of suspicion to every democrat for centuries". Reform of the Lords has been promised for more than 80 years. Perhaps it will be begun in the next Parliament, but the Labour proposal is so undemocratic as to be useless.

Europe, which is much the most important constitutional issue, could develop in one of four ways. Britain could regain full democratic rights by leaving the European Union and signing a trade treaty similar to that with Norway; the EU could become a looser trading association, perhaps after a failed attempt to create a single currency; Europe could become a single state, but with a democratic constitution, perhaps with an elected president or with government by the European Parliament; or Europe could develop along the present lines to become a single state under a bureaucratic constitution. The first three of these outcomes are compatible with democracy. Unfortunately, the present constitution of the EU is bureaucratic; it is no more democratic than the House of Lords.

In the debate on devolution, John Major rightly pressed Tony Blair for an answer to the so-called West Lothian question, which the Prime Minister put in this form: "How could Scottish members in this House continue to legislate on matters in England, if English members had no control over the same matters in Scotland?" Early in his speech Tony Blair said: "I can answer it and I will"; towards the end of his speech he said: "Let us turn from the West Lothian question." These were the two pieces of toast inside which the West Lothian question was supposed to be wrapped. But inside the sandwich there was no beef. Tony Blair promised to answer the West Lothian question, and later implied that he had answered it, but he never did so: one can only assume that he does not have any answer. That makes Labour's proposals for a Scottish parliament a leap in the dark.

No government in history has survived unless it could take effective decisions. That has been true under authoritarian as well as democratic constitutions. Decision-making powers have already been surrendered by Westminster to the EU under a non-democratic constitution. The Labour Party's proposals would transfer other powers to a Scottish parliament without reducing the right of Scottish members to legislate for England. There must be a danger that the Commons will be seen as being almost as impotent as the Lords, and British democracy will look like a sham, particularly to the English. The Commons has lost too much of its authority already; any further loss could be fatal.

Every secondary school in Britain should distribute copies of last Thursday's *Hansard* so that pupils would understand these constitutional issues. In Tony Benn's words, "This debate will make better reading for the future if we consider the issues against the background, not only of a forthcoming general election, but of a much more serious matter — the crisis of representative democracy, not only in Britain but throughout the Western world. Power is too centralised; it is too secretive. It is increasingly authoritarian, not only in the parliamentary system, but in the political parties. Fundamental reforms are required." That too is a warning worthy of Burke.

Mind the funding gap

We must stop public services going down the tubes, says Peter Riddell



This morning, along with 400,000 fellow Londoners, I shall be travelling on the Northern Line. This is a duty, rather than a pleasure, as we are crammed into old trains, with frequent stops in the middle of tunnels, delays, cancellations and out-of-order lifts and escalators. All is not hopeless. From the autumn, there will be new trains thanks to the Government's Private Finance Initiative. Unfortunately, the service will be no faster, and may be slower since overdue modernisation of track and signals has just been put back three years because of government cuts.

This absurdity is symbolic of the mismatch between the demand for public services and the available finance. That applies as much to the health service and education as it does to London Underground. The Underground is a victim of the Treasury's policy of always cutting capital investment to hold down overall spending. This is easier than cutting welfare provision or other current programmes, regardless of the impact of such sharp shifts on sensible planning. The Private Finance Initiative, under which the private sector finances and manages projects and assumes some of the risk, is supposed to close the gap. But as the Northern Line nonsense shows, this has a limited application, and anyway payment is only deferred to later years. Nor is this situation likely to improve. Gordon Brown has promised to stick to already announced spending plans, in detail for the coming year and in aggregate for the following year.

The investment cuts of more than £700 million over the next three years announced last week by London Underground mean that spending will be too low to prevent the system from deteriorating further. This will add to a £1.2 billion backlog and risk a repetition of the two network-wide power failures of the past year.

This is not a problem for London commuters alone, nor is it a plea for more money from taxpayers generally. It is, as the chairman of British Airways, Sir Colin Marshall, argued last week, a critical national issue, important for London's position as a financial and tourist centre, as well as for reducing pollution and congestion on the roads. This has produced growing tensions between government and business. Michael Cassidy, who has just stepped down after five years as chairman of the Corporation of London's key policy and resources committee, has criticised the Government's record and reluctance to try new ideas which he has been prominent in urging.

The answer, all agree, is increased private sector involvement. A commitment to privatisation of the Underground is likely to be in the Tory manifesto. But Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, has been cautious because of doubts about separating infrastructure from operations, as happened with British Rail, since the Underground is inherently more integrated. Alternatives are splitting the system into five or six operators, or having an overall statutory authority to regulate levels of service and fares and to franchise individual lines.

Private sector operators would be free from Treasury controls in raising capital. There would also be scope for improving efficiency, though London Underground is much better managed than ten or 15 years ago. The problem is whether the returns would be attractive enough, given the need to maintain services and the vast backlog of investment.

Some subsidy would be necessary to ensure the desired investment, as everywhere else in the world. In the absence of more money from taxpayers, there is a case for a levy on industry and commerce in London, to be paid on top of business rates, with small firms exempt. This has been suggested by the Corporation of London and backed by leading Tory supporters such as Lord Sheppard of Didgemere, former chairman of Grand Metropolitan. Under a scheme devised by Tony Travers and Stephen Glaister of the London School of Economics, such a levy would be voted on by businesses, and would be for specific infrastructure projects.

This is similar to initiatives in New York, Baltimore and Philadelphia, where local companies have voted to set up and finance Business Improvement Districts to produce safer and cleaner downtown areas. It is also like Liberal Democrat suggestions for taxes to finance particular programmes, such as a higher tobacco duty for the NHS. Paddy Ashdown has argued that only by establishing a clear link between taxes and spending will people be willing to pay more for services. The Treasury regards such ideas as gimmicks which threaten public spending control. The Government last year sniffily said that while it would not discourage further work on the infrastructure levy, it was clearly a tax.

Labour leaders have been wary both of endorsing the levy, for fear of being accused by the Tories of supporting a new tax, and of backing privatisation, for fear of alienating their allies. Andrew Smith, Labour's transport spokesman, has talked of attracting private investment "into the system without losing strategic control through privatisation". This could be done by station modernisation, smartcard ticketing, "designing, renewing and operating schemes for private sector refurbishment and maintenance of track and tunnels", and procurement and financing of trains. This may not amount to selling off the whole system but it is privatisation in practice. Increased private investment and earmarked levies may be the only way out of the tax and spend impasse.

This debate has not only united a wide range of diverse bodies in criticism of the Government, but has also helped to create a distinctive London voice. Ever since the abolition of the Greater London Council in the mid 1980s, the Tories have resisted a strategic authority for London. A Labour government would create one, and if Tony Blair had his way, a mayor for London as well. Someone needs to be speak up for me as I try and find a little space to read *The Times* on the Northern Line.

Ever Hopeful

EVERY few weeks a fax arrives at Buckingham Palace from the Regal Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles. It is from the concierge there, Greg Donovan, and exhorts the Queen to bestow a knighthood on Bob Hope, the comedian. Hope, 93, was born in England and moved to America before the First World War. The failure to honour him feels to Donovan, the comedian's former valet, like a permanently stubbed toe.

Donovan recalls the beginning of the "knight Bob" campaign. He was reading the newspapers out to Hope and saw that Norman Schwarzkopf had received an honorary "K". "I looked across at Mr Hope's big grand piano and there on prominent display was a portrait of Her Majesty, Queen of England." When he suggested to Hope that he too should be knighted, the comedian "sort of fell silent and said quietly: 'Yes, you know that would be nice.'"

In the past two years, Donovan has written repeatedly to the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York, Prince Edward, the Prime Minister, even Princess Margaret, emphasising his hero's work entertaining British troops in the Second World War.

There is a precedent: another British comic genius who made his home in America, P.G. Wodehouse was finally knighted aged 93, but died six weeks later on Long Island. Of his campaign for Hope, Donovan says: "I just want to thank him for the memories."





Will Her Majesty soften and thank Bob for the good times?

Viennese whirl

AS IF to prove that little changes in the fields of royalty and desperate vanity, the contents of the Austrian Empress Elisabeth's bathroom cabinet are being sold off in Vienna. Elisabeth, rated the Catherine Deneuve of the mid 19th century, built up a colossal collection of prescriptions, lotions and potions.

In the days before the Chelsea Harbour Club, she adhered to a strict gymnastic programme, starved herself to stay slim, refused to have her streams of hair cut despite the searing headaches they caused her, and by way of a *Cosmo* substitute, collected pictures of other beautiful women from history.

Last waltz?

SHADES of Michael Portillo's disastrous rally for his tenth anniversary in Parliament stalk Matthew Taylor, the eager-beaver Liberal Democrat MP for Truro. Taylor, 34, who speaks with exclamation marks, has sent out a letter asking fans to come and celebrate his own tenth anniversary at a dinner-dance at the Headland Hotel in Newquay, where they can listen to Paddy Ashdown and dance to the Soul Survivors — an improvement on last year "as it is a special occasion!"

There may after all be no 20th anniversary. Defending a slimmish majority in the imminent election, Taylor shows a blithely confident spirit, writing: "At the moment, the constituency election fund is £90 in debt!"

So simple

OVER in Paris on Saturday night, Mick Hucknall, lead singer of the pop group Simply Red, was lounging round the bar at a nightclub boat moored on the Seine and called Le Colonial. Suddenly the band went quiet and Hucknall's date, a striking blonde, dragged him onstage. Reluctantly he went and for the next half an hour sang a collection including Deep Purple's *Smoke on the Water* and the Rolling Stones' *Honky Tonk Woman*.

When he finished, the band leader came forward, looked at Hucknall, then blankly to the crowd. "Thank you very much." He paused. "Mr Simply Red."

● *Promises are being auctioned on March 7 to raise money for the Dulwich Picture Gallery in south London. Lord Sainsbury promises free shopping, Loyd Grossman promises lunch with Loyd Grossman, while Gillian Clarke, the wife of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has promised a course of A-level maths classes.*



Max factor

THERE is a severe lesson fo schoolmasters in David Twistor Davies's foreword to his tremer dous new collection of Canadia obituaries: be good to your pupil one of them might end up runnir a newspaper. The Twister, as he widely known, recalls how his fc mer Editor at *The Daily Te graph*, Max Hastings, on decided to add a comment to t obituary of his housemaster Charterhouse, R.L. Arrowsmith.

Hastings was no fan of Arrc smith or Charterhouse. He o said there were not enough ho in the day to be rude about place. So when Arrowsmith's v ow wrote to complain about his marks, Hastings was not for ening. "A lively correspond ensued," writes the Twister, which the Editor gave the grie woman an extensive recitatio her husband's shortcomings excesses."

P·H·

COST OF BENEFIT ANALYSIS

Which party will make welfare work?

The Labour Party used to think that the only way to solve poverty was to take money from the rich and give it to the poor in the form of higher benefits. As today's *Times* guide to election issues on page 6 explains, the party has undergone a conversion. Now the emphasis by both parties is on helping people off welfare and into work. Fifty years of the postwar social security system have shown it to be the worst kind of safety-net — the kind from which it is very hard to climb. The challenge is to turn it into a trampoline.

Hence the talk from both Labour and the Tories of "workfare", in which benefit is given to the unemployed only if they are prepared to do work or training in return. New Labour has made much of the responsibilities that should accompany welfare rights: if opportunities are offered by the State, the individual ought to take them. Workfare will almost certainly form part of the Tory manifesto too. Today the Employment Minister, Eric Forth, will announce the extension of two pilot schemes to 28 areas, covering 100,000 long-term unemployed. In return for £10 a week on top of their benefit, they will have to spend 13 weeks job-seeking or training and a further 13 weeks working for the community if they are not to lose benefit altogether.

Labour would offer 250,000 young unemployed four different options. Those who refused would have their benefit cut by 40 per cent. Employers would be paid a £75 a week subsidy for each long-term unemployed person they took on. It proposes to spend the £3bn proceeds of its windfall tax on the utilities on these programmes.

The idea that people should offer something in return for their benefits has obvious attractions and serves two further purposes. Workfare instantly identifies and shakes out of the system those who have been abusing it — by claiming benefit but doing casual or black-market work on the side. And those who are unused to the discipline of time-keeping and following instructions have the chance to learn or relearn the psychology of work, making themselves more employable.

But workfare is expensive. The cheapest way to deal with unemployment is to pay a Giro cheque each week. "Active" labour-market measures, which help people to look for work, train them and place them, cost far more. In the long run, there may be a return in terms of a lower social security bill, as long as the newly employed do not simply displace others from work. But in the short run, such schemes cannot be self-financing. The Tory proposals are expected to pay for themselves. Any promise in the manifesto to extend them nationwide as long as they are self-financing should therefore be taken with some scepticism.

But is Labour really in earnest in its promise to reform welfare? Would it not fall foul of old Labour ideology and the strength of the "poverty lobby"? Tony Blair would certainly have to show determination in the face of much of his parliamentary party. But he would find that the poverty pressure groups have undergone their own transformation in the past few years, and are more inclined than ever to support modern welfare-to-work measures. And a left-of-centre government would be more likely to win popular support for such reforms. There is some merit in Mr Blair's argument that only the party that founded the modern welfare state would be trusted to reform it.

Any difficulties that Mr Blair experienced with his parliamentary party would surely be offset by support from Tory benches. It would be extraordinary for a Conservative opposition to vote against legislation to toughen up welfare. Such reforms are likely to be enacted whichever party wins — the time is ripe for them.

THOUGHT FOR FOOD

Tell the story on the label

Almost every week brings fresh announcements of genetic modification or cloning of animals, fruit and vegetables. We report today on the first cloning of an adult sheep and on claims by scientists that they could genetically enhance vegetables in ways which will enhance human resistance to cancer. The sequence of debate follows what is now a predictable pattern. Scientists are careful to define the limited scope and uses of gene manipulation. Food and pharmaceutical companies stress that research shows no harmful side-effects.

The aims and claims are sincere, but consumers are not reassured; the dialogue of the deaf continues. Scientific advance has transformed food production over the past half century and genetic engineering is the greatest change of all. Consumers with no scientific training can only reach their conclusions about the safety of what they eat by looking for instructive parallels. In the case of BSE, scientific assurance that there could be no link to human illness eventually yielded to research which suggested the opposite. The various links in the food chain were hardly required to declare much to each other or to the consumer about exactly what had gone into the commodity they were selling.

The scientific parallel is not an exact one, but the issue of public confidence is precisely the same. Agribusiness, the food industry and the scientific community have failed to appreciate that the scope of their new opportunities requires a similarly sweeping revision of their attitude to consumer information. If they fail to see this need, a massive crisis of public confidence is inevitable when the first crack appears in the confident certainties of today. Instead of obeying the minimal and patchy legal requirements to declare when food has been genetically modified, food retailers and wholesalers should move to establish better standards than governments and the EU now require.

The sorry political saga of the EU's attempts to establish some control over genetically modified maize and soya from America illustrates that where controls break down or are never set up, the only useful alternative is full information for the consumer. This may involve the food industry in giving customers far more information than they are currently accustomed to digest. It may involve delivering and displaying information in imaginative ways; it should certainly create a new culture of transparency in an industry not accustomed to working behind glass. Since governments are hard-pressed to finance the kinds of research programmes which will help to detect problems before they occur, the industry might like to contemplate financing a wider range of publicly available research into risks in gene technology.

Food manufacturers should aim to convince the public that doubt has been eliminated as thoroughly as possible. Two thirds of the items on supermarket shelves contain soya in some form or quantity and in time that could be soya produced using gene technology. Few consumers at the moment feel that they have the knowledge that they would like on how the tomato paste, the cheese, the self-ripening tomato arrives on the shelf. Whether the law requires it or not, ignorance should be remedied before it becomes fear.

TUNNEL VISION

Business to the rescue of the Tube

London was the first city in the world to build an underground system, and for more than a century this marvel of Victorian engineering sustained the capital's reputation as a city that worked. For the past 20 years, however, the attempt to consolidate London's attraction as a world business centre has been undermined by rising public anger and frustration at its dilapidated and worsening public transport. More than 30 years of underinvestment in the Tube have taken a heavy toll. Passengers have grown used to being stranded in fetid tunnels. Worn-out cables have caused power cuts, defective signalling held up trains and escalators halted awaiting repair. The cumulative effect has been disastrous for the reputation of London as a world centre.

The announcement by London Underground that it is postponing or scrapping hundreds of proposed improvements to the system because of a £700 million budget shortfall must induce despair in the capital's travellers. Under trading conditions that would floor a less committed management, the London Transport chairman, Peter Ford, has succeeded in halting the decline. Passenger numbers are rising, more trains are running than ever before, the investment backlog has been halved and train operations are now making money. But he has been dealt two harsh blows by Whitehall. Virtually ordered to construct the Jubilee Line to save government face and investment in Docklands, he has been refused any additional money for the inevitable cost overruns. London Transport must also now respond to the savaging of its investment by Kenneth Clarke's budget.

The money must be found somewhere. The Government trumpets its commitment to urban renewal, cleaner air, a better environment and the financial pre-eminence of the City of London, but is unwilling to do anything to relieve traffic congestion or pay more than ritual lip-service to public transport: preconditions for these proclaimed goals. The City knows this: Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of the capital's business lobby London First Centre, says that without a functioning transport system, London — the powerhouse of the British economy which provides a net subsidy of £6 billion to the rest of the country — could not function. Should the City not come to the rescue? The will, the money and the precedent are there: a consortium was willing to back the doomed Crossrail scheme and the refurbishment of Bank station has been helped with City grants.

In the long term, privatisation — despite the complexity — is inevitable. But until then, the Tube needs more than botching and patching. Mr Ford will do what he can to stimulate Private Finance Initiatives. If London cares about its future, then its banks, brokers and businesses must be ready to pay with loans or levies. Railtrack is to spend £15 billion renewing the main lines' vital infrastructure; Richard Branson has grandiose plans for a swift, profitable service on the West Coast main line. Only London seems doomed to further stagnation on its rails. The lines must be cleared.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Judges and Home Office in conflict over sentencing

From Lord Ackner

Sir, Baroness Blatch, Minister of State at the Home Office, in her letter of February 19, clearly implies that the judges are failing to impose adequate sentences. May I remind her of the following important facts.

1. In 1991 the judges were accused by the Government of being *too tough* on crime. Accordingly, amongst other statutory measures to curb their sentencing powers, Section 29 (1) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 provided:

An offence shall not be regarded as more serious for the purposes of any provision of this Part by reason of any previous convictions of the offender or any failure of his to respond to previous sentences.

2. The sample figures which Baroness Blatch quotes, purporting to demonstrate that the judges are now *too soft* on crime by failing adequately to increase their sentences by reason of previous convictions, cover a period (1993-94) before the Government were obliged in the Criminal Justice Act 1993 to repeal Section 29 and restore to the judges their discretion to take into account previous convictions.

3. The Home Office does not normally collect information about the previous convictions of burglars. The statistics in Lady Blatch's letter have been constructed from a sampling exercise conducted in five different weeks in 1993 and 1994. These samples covered only 949 burglars out of a total of 78,300 sentenced in those two years.

4. Average figures are notoriously misleading. In 1994 the range of first custodial sentences for burglary was from two months to seven years. For a second conviction from two months to ten years. For the third or more of such sentences it was between six months and ten years.

5. Since the repeal of Section 29 the prison population has gone up by approximately 50 per cent, from approximately 40,000 to 60,000, and currently there is considerable anxiety at the extent of prison overcrowding.

Yours faithfully,
ACKNER,
House of Lords,
February 20.

From the Director of Justice

Sir, Baroness Blatch rightly says that it is "essential that the public have confidence in our criminal justice system". The Government's stated aims — honesty and transparency in sentencing and the protection of the public — are also laudable. But the proposed mandatory sentencing regime will achieve none of these aims.

Mandatory sentences ignore the reality that crimes — even by repeat offenders — are committed in a wide variety of circumstances. Judicial discretion ensures that the principle of proportionality is maintained as judges see the offenders, the circumstances of the crime, *and* the effect on the victims and their families, all at first hand.

Excellent research carried out by the Prison Reform Trust shows that mandatory sentences have resulted in more contested trials — exposing victims to the trauma of having to give evidence — and that there has been a shift from judicial to prosecutorial discretion as prosecutors and defence lawyers circumvent mandatory sentences by negotiating guilty pleas to lesser charges.

The result is *dishonesty* in sentencing, which is bound to lose public confidence. The House of Lords amendments to restore judicial discretion strike a blow for common sense. It is to be hoped that they are accepted by the Government when the Bill returns to the Commons; otherwise we may see a future government hurriedly introducing reforms shortly after its enactment — exactly what happened with the previous attempt to fetter judicial discretion in sentencing, by unit fines, in the 1991 Criminal Justice Act. This is no way to legislate for the protection of the public.

Yours,
ANNE OWERS,
Director,
Justice,
59 Carter Lane, EC4.
February 19.

From Sir Frederick Lawton

Sir, If the Crime (Sentencing) Bill ever becomes law in substantially its present form the judges will have to construe the resulting Act according to its text, not Baroness Blatch's version of it as set out in her letter. They will find in it a reference to "burglary"; but none to what she calls "house burglars" nor "to breaking into other people's homes". Her language reflects that of the Larceny Act 1916 which was repealed in 1968.

Under the Theft Act 1968, which replaced this legislation, the social inadequate, living in a tenement let out in single rooms, commits burglary if he enters the unlocked room of another resident, breaks open the gas meter in it and steals the contents. So does the passer-by who enters an empty building to steal firewood or fittings.

Would a judge, under the proposed Bill, be entitled to find that there were exceptional circumstances in such cases? They are common enough.

Yours truly,
FREDERICK LAWTON,
1 The Village,
Skelton, York.
February 20.

Bishop's reply on Lenten reading

From the Bishop of Jarrow

Sir, May I respond to the letters which you published on February 20, commenting on my decision to read the Koran during Lent.

Each day in Lent the morning prayer, as found in the increasingly popular *Celebrating Common Prayer*, begins with the words "Blessed are you, God of compassion and mercy" — a healing phrase which punctuates the Bible and heads each chapter of the Koran.

The sadness of our world is that this fundamental truth gets lost in the midst of human conflict: sectarian struggles in Ireland, aggressive intolerance in Sudan, destructive violence in Pakistan and vendettas and fatwas in the Middle East are featured in your columns daily.

But none of these events, tragic as they are in themselves and in their consequences, compromises the central truth of a religion, as stated in your leading article of February 13, "The truth about the fatwa", and as the letter you published on February 22 from the Imam of the London Mosque confirms.

Far from it being inappropriate in Lent to read the Koran when things like this are happening, these very events themselves (and the many similar ones in the history of other religions, including Christianity) make it all the more essential to go back to sources and sift the truth from its distorted expressions.

Then we may find in one another traces of that compassion and mercy which are God's essence and his gift to all.

Yours faithfully,
†ALAN JARROW,
The Old Vicarage,
Hallgarth, Pittington, Durham.
February 22.

From Mr Qamar Nadeem Ahmed

Sir, The Pastor of Norwich Reformed Church acknowledges that the "study of other faiths is useful in discouraging prejudice" (letter, February 20), but goes on to lament Islam's "barbaric penalties" for criminals and the Muslim persecution of Sudanese Christians, concluding that such a religion has "little or nothing to teach those who value the Bible".

In the Muslim community similar voices can be heard decrying Christianity for all the sins of modernity, including the abuse of drugs, homosexuality, the Aids virus, ad infinitum.

The sooner we follow the example of the Bishop of Jarrow in showing greater tolerance for the scriptural premises of religion as opposed to human imponderability, the sooner we shall be able to rise above the din and clatter of prejudice and chauvinism.

As a Muslim, I see in the Bishop of Jarrow's gesture only a benign attempt to strengthen not only the bonds of affinity between Muslims and Christians but to give greater credence and vigour to the Church.

Yours sincerely,
Q. N. AHMED,
4 Baldry Gardens, SW16.
February 20.

From Canon H. W. J. Harland

Sir, Give up the Bible for Lent? My Lenten discipline is to give up bishops.

Yours faithfully,
H. W. J. HARLAND,
St John's Vicarage,
4 Cornwallis Avenue,
Folkestone, Kent.

Price of scholarship

From Mr A. W. N. Probert

Sir, Libby Purves, in her article on the price of privatising Oxford (February 18) makes an apt point on the unique value placed on thought and scholarship at Oxford and Cambridge. Many who have experienced both Oxbridge and younger institutions cannot fault the teaching and research of the latter, but they do not rival the ancient foundations for encouraging new ideas and exposing them to great minds and sheer scholastic vigour.

Quality would, in my view, be ensured by the provision of a comprehensive grant linked to a "graduate tax", which would cover both tuition and living costs and later be levied according to income after graduation. This was proposed by Nicholas O'Shaughnessy and Nigel Allington in their book, *Light, Liberty and Learning* (1992), and is infinitely preferable to the bastardised version of the student loan scheme now being proposed (reports, February 17).

Such a "tax" would allow for proper funding of universities, much reduced cost to the Exchequer and fair and equitable finances for the students, who would receive money when they need it and repay when (and if) they can afford it. And it's an original idea — honed at Oxbridge.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW PROBERT,
University of Cambridge,
The Judge Institute of
Management Studies,
Trumpington Street, Cambridge.
February 19.

Rifkind in Germany

From Mr Lewis Stretch

Sir, Why should anyone apologise for describing Mr Rifkind as a Jew (report, February 22)? Not only are Jews respected members of our own society: Germany was a more highly regarded and acceptable member of the European community when its Jewish citizens were able to contribute so much to its and the world's culture.

Yet the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*'s gaffe, for the epithet is irrelevant to a political debate, is a timely reminder that Germany's nationalistic intolerance still lies just below the democratic language with which Chancellor Kohl clothes his drive to build a Fourth Reich.

It reveals how little some Germans understand genuine Europeanism, when a respected newspaper is apparently surprised that a Jew should quote a German Protestant who translated the Jewish scriptures into German to curb Roman pretensions.

Yours faithfully,
LEWIS STRETCH,
3 Laroc Close,
Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire.
February 22.

From Mrs Robert Willis

Sir, On reading the *Frankfurter Allgemeine*, Mr Rifkind will no doubt recall Bismarck's reference to Disraeli at the Congress of Berlin: "*Der alte Jüde, das ist der Mann*" ("The old Jew, that's the man").

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH WILLIS
Bunbury, Lower Shiplake,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.
February 22.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Plea to release Mordechai Vanunu

From Mr Andrew F. Neil

Sir, On the occasion of the first official visit to this country of the Head of State of Israel, it is appropriate to draw attention to the tragic and outrageous plight of Mordechai Vanunu. He is now in his eleventh year of solitary confinement in an Israeli jail after being illegally abducted from the United Kingdom by Israel's secret service in 1986, and sentenced to a savage 18 years' imprisonment for providing *The Sunday Times* with details of Israel's secret nuclear weapons programme.

Mr Vanunu was convicted of treason and espionage — perhaps the only example in the democratic world of the leaking of information to a newspaper being treated as an act of treachery. Israeli officials have consistently claimed that he "purposefully assisted" countries that were in a state of war with Israel. But there is not a shred of evidence to show that he ever approached or tried to supply any foreign power or enemy of Israel with the information in his possession.

Instead, he came to *The Sunday Times* with his testimony and photographs, so that the world would know that Israel had secretly become the world's sixth-largest nuclear weapons state, while its leaders were denying that Israel had a nuclear capability and even claiming that it would never be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East.

Imagine how we would feel if a British government had made us a nuclear power by subterfuge, without democratic accountability or even putting the issue to the vote. We would surely regard any whistleblower in such circumstances as a hero of open government rather than a traitor. Yet the Israeli authorities have sought to besmirch Mr Vanunu's motives at every opportunity, alleging that he tried to hawk his story around for large sums of money.

As Editor when he came to *The Sunday Times* in 1986, I can testify that he was never interested in profiting financially from his story. He did not receive a penny for it, nor did he ask for any money.

Even the Israeli courts recognised the moral motives behind his actions, which should have mitigated his sentence. Instead, he has had to endure solitary confinement on the spurious basis that he could reveal further secrets to his country's enemies. The Israeli Government knows full well that Mr Vanunu, a lowly nuclear technician, told all he knew. The experts who debriefed him for *The Sunday Times* will confirm that.

Mordechai Vanunu has nothing left to tell the world about Israel's nuclear secrets. But he would have plenty to say about his illegal kidnapping, which is the real reason he is being kept in such inhuman imprisonment. For more than ten years he has lived alone in a tiny, damp cell, with no sunlight and only one window too high for him to see out.

There is a hole in the corner which doubles as lavatory and shower drain. There are severe restrictions on how often anybody can visit him and when he is briefly allowed out it is to exercise alone under an awning, so that there can be no contact with anybody else.

Given the motives which led Mr Vanunu to tell the world about Israel's nuclear arsenal, the illegal manner of his arrest, the fact that he has not jeopardised Israel's security one whit and the punishment he has suffered, it is time for Israel to exercise long-overdue clemency and release him. At the very least, surely his solitary confinement should end.

I urge all who meet President Ezer Weizman during his current welcome visit to press these points on him.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW F. NEIL
(Editor-in-Chief),
Scotsman Publications,
20 North Bridge, Edinburgh.
February 20.

'Falling sickness'

From Professor J. B. P. Stephenson

Sir, Dr Stuttaford's article of February 13, "The last of the hidden diseases", could give the impression that everyone with a "falling sickness" has epilepsy. This is not the case. Up to 50 per cent of those thought to have epilepsy do not have this condition. In most cases the error comes from not recognising syncope (fainting fit, anoxic seizure) for what it is. To quote a recent North American textbook:

In the 19th century, neurologists often had trouble distinguishing between syncope and [epileptic] seizures. Indeed, until well after World War II, British physicians viewed fainting in church as highly suggestive of an underlying epileptic disorder. However, EEG studies have demonstrated unequivocally that, despite confusing signs of tonic spasms, generalised body jerks, and urinary incontinence, syncope is non-epileptic.

Research into both types of "falling sickness" must be supported but the distinction between them needs to be maintained.

Yours sincerely,
J. B. P. STEPHENSON,
Royal Hospital for Sick Children,
Department of Neurology and
Child Development,
Yorkhill, Glasgow.
February 13.

Pews and popcorn

From Mr Colin S. Gale

Sir, Since 1818 thousands of churches across England and Wales have undertaken to provide most, if not all, of their pews for the free use of parishioners in consideration of the financial assistance rendered by the Incorporated Church Building Society, to which Mr Greenhaugh draws attention (letter, February 15). The records of the society are now open to public access at Lambeth Palace Library.

Such assurances, with moral if not legal force, were given by the officers of Mrs Ann Hale's village church in Warwickshire in 1876, the time of its re-pewing (letter, February 8). The better-off residents of the parish raised no objection. But, according to the then rector, neither did they attend the church or donate a shilling towards its restoration, as many of them (including the local landowner) were Methodists and had their own church improvement scheme to fund.

In an increasingly competitive market, churches wishing to increase their custom would do well to foster caring communities of genuine faith, perhaps sharing a pot of tea after morning service but leaving the popcorn in the cinema, along with the paying stalls that were forsworn long ago.

Yours etc,
COLIN S. GALE
(Assistant Archivist),
Lambeth Palace Library,
London SE1 7JU.

Science and the arts

From the Director of the Royal Institution of Great Britain

Sir, Your correspondent Mr K. R. Williams (February 20; see also letters, February 15) will be pleased to know that, in the 170 years since Faraday started the Friday evening discourses at the Royal Institution as a way of bringing current science to a general audience, the 300 or so members and guests who continue to attend each week contain many who are not themselves scientists.

Lawyers, civil servants, industrialists, school teachers and a variety of other professionals gain enlightenment and, dare one say, entertainment, though sadly these days we are a bit light on politicians.

Furthermore, for the last two or three years it has been possible to see some of the discourses on BBC TV, albeit in the *Learning Zone* broadcast at dead of night.

Bridges between humanities and sciences remain as important, and elusive, as ever but the Royal Institution is still a forum for all.

Yours faithfully,
PETER DAY,
Director,
The Royal Institution of
Great Britain,
21 Albemarle Street, W1.
February 20.

Seasonal variations

From Mr Patrick Dudgeon

Sir, It is perfectly correct for British Airways to serve alcohol during Lent (letter, February 17), as all the passengers could take advantage of "travellers' dispensation".

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK DUDGEON,
The White House,
Effingham Street, Dover, Kent.
February 18.

هكذا من الاصل

COURT CIRCULAR

ST JAMES'S PALACE

February 22: The Prince of Wales this morning opened a seminar on 'Economic Liberalisation: Efficiency, Growth and Employment in a Kuwaiti Context' in *HMY Britannia.*

His Royal Highness was later received by The Amir of the State of Kuwait and by The Crown Prince at the Bayan Palace.

The Prince of Wales afterwards visited the Kuwait City Souq.

The Amir of the State of Kuwait later gave a Luncheon for His Royal Highness at the Bayan Palace.

The Prince of Wales this afternoon visited the Dickson House where His Royal Highness was shown the plans for the restoration, and afterwards, as Patron, met members of the British-Kuwait Friendship Society.

The Prince of Wales, Vice Patron, the British Council, later visited the Council offices in Mansouriya and attended a Reception for British Embassy staff and members of the British Defence Mission.

His Royal Highness this evening gave a Reception and Dinner in *HMY Britannia* for The Crown Prince.

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: Charles Le Brun, painter, Paris, 1619; Catherine I, Empress of Russia 1725-27, Dorpat, Estonia, 1684; James Quin, actor, London, 1693; Samuel Wesley, musician, Bristol, 1766; Wilhelm Grimm, historian and folklore collector, Hanau, Germany, 1786; Samuel Lover, novelist, songwriter and painter, Dublin, 1797; George Moore, novelist, Ballyglass, Co Mayo, 1852; Arnold Dolmetsch, musician, Le Mans, 1858; Sir Arthur Pearson, newspaper proprietor, Wookey, Somerset, 1866.

DEATHS: Henry Cavendish, physicist and chemist, London, 1810; Robert Fulton, steamboat pioneer, New York, 1815; Thomas Bowdler, self-appointed Shakespearean censor, Swansea, 1825; Edmund Armstrong, poet, Kingstown, Ireland, 1865.

Pope Gregory XIII announced New Style (Gregorian) calendar, 1582.

The Flying Scotsman went into service, 1923.

Juan Perón was elected President of Argentina, 1946.

Dr Kwame Nkrumah, President of Ghana, was ousted in a military coup, 1966.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will attend the Alzheimer's Research Trust dinner at Drapers' Hall at 7.30.

The Duke of York, as patron, will attend a gala performance by the Contemporary Dance Trust at The Place, 17 Duke's Road, London, WC1, at 7.15, followed by a dinner at the Bloomsbury Trusthouse Forte Hotel, at 9.45.

The Princess Royal will attend the British Equestrian Trade Association international trade fair at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, at noon.

University news

Durham

The university is to confer the following honorary degrees:

Doctor of letters: **Ms Pat Barker**, author; **Dr Robert Hardy**, actor and scholar.

Doctor of civil law: **Mr Hiroaki Fujii**, Japanese Ambassador since 1994; **Sir Donald Hawley**, diplomat and businessman; **Professor Josef Jarab**, scholar and parliamentarian; **Sir Colin Marshall**, industrialist.

Doctor of science: **Dr Robert Malpas**, scientist and businessman.

Master of arts: **Mr Edward Wood**, for outstanding service to rugby and to the university.

Queen's University, Belfast

Senator George Mitchell, chairman of the Stormont peace talks, is among those on whom the university is to confer honorary degrees. They will be conferred as follows:

LLD: the **Duke of Abercorn**, for services to business and the community; **Senator George Mitchell**, for services to the community

DSc: **Professor Edwin Gabathuler**, FRS, for distinction as a physicist.

DSc (Eng): **Dr Michael West**, for services to geotechnical engineering.

DSc (Econ): **Edmund F. Kelly**, for contributions to the financial services industry.

DSc (Educ): **Sir William Taylor**, for services to education.

Westminster

Recent grants include:

Dr K Madani: £41,800 from GEC Plessey Semiconductors (development of a microwave car alarm with improved false alarm rate).

Dr L Clarke: £25,500 from IPRA Ltd (Construction Industry Board: a strategic review of construction skills training).

Professor M Browne: £60,629 from ETSU — the UKAEA (recap: addition of a transport module).

N York: £30,000 from HMV Group (HMV music industry resource centre).

Birthdays today



David Langdon, cartoonist and illustrator, who is 83 today; and the Rev Kathleen Richardson, former President of the Methodist Conference, who is 59

Professor George Bain, Principal, London Business School, 58; Judge Inge Bernstein, 66; Professor E. Boyland, biochemist, 92; Mr Brian Close, cricketer, 66; Dr Lionel Dakers, former Director, Royal School of Church Music, 73; Mr Reginald Freeson, former MP, 71; Professor G.J.M. Gazdar, FBA, computational linguist, 47; Mr Richard Hamilton, painter, 75; Lord Hazlerigg, 87; Major-General David Houston, Lord Lieutenant of Sutherland, 68; Mr Paul Jones, singer and actor, 55; Earl Kitchener of Khartoum, 78; Mr Denis Law, footballer, 57; Mr Anthony Mayer, chief executive, Housing Corporation, 51; Lord Melchett, 49; the Marquess of Normanby, 43; Admiral Sir William Pillar, 73; M Alain Prost, racing driver, 42; Mr Derek Randall, cricketer, 46; Sir Frank Rogers, a director, Telegraph Group, and chairman, NPA, 77; Mr Dennis Waterman, actor, 49; Sir Jerry Wiggin, MP, 60.

Nature notes

Water rails are fighting in the reed beds as they establish their territories. Loud squealing cries come from deep in the reeds, and occasionally one bird will be seen chasing another. They can be distinguished from moorhens by their long, red beak and barred flanks. On the water, coots are fighting: the attacking bird lowers its head and neck water and charges at its rival. Canada geese are leaving the flocks and forming into pairs: the new couple flies together making honking calls. Long-tailed tits have also left their treetop flocks, and the pairs are looking for nesting sites in gorse bushes and cypress trees. Sallow bushes are covered with silver catkins: the female catkins will stay the same colour, but the male catkins will turn gold as pollen develops on them. Catkins are on the hazel trees. These are the male flowers; the female flowers are tiny tufts of red threads on the twigs. Sweet violets are coming into flower on woodland banks. DJM



The water rail

Battle of Britain study expected to fetch £10,000

BY JOHN SHAW

A PAINTING which symbolised the Battle of Britain and once hung at Fighter Command HQ is expected to fetch about £10,000 at auction in London on April 10.

The panoramic study showing a dogfight over the Thames Estuary in the summer of 1940 is by the late Roy Nockolds. The 6ft by 4ft painting has belonged to an aviation enthusiast in Switzerland since the artist died in 1979.

Patrick Bogue, a director of Onslow's, a specialist auction house in Fulham, southwest London, where the work will be sold, said: "Nockolds was a war artist and was commissioned by Fighter Command to paint the definitive picture of the battle.

"It represents the climax of his career as an aviation artist. This version hung in the mess at RAF Bentley Priory, but the paint began to crack slightly and he was asked to do a second version. The original was sent back to his studio and was there when he died."

The study shows an air battle with fighters going down in flames. Nockolds was well known for his accuracy and skill in capturing the changing moods of clouds and sky, which can be seen in the picture.

It is one of two Second World Two aviation studies on offer. The other is an atmospheric scene of Lancaster bombers on a night raid over Germany and which is estimated to fetch £1,000-£1,500.

Universities fare well in archaeology assessment

BY NORMAN HAMMOND
ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S university archaeology departments have fared well in the recent research assessment exercise (RAE). Three of the 26 departments were given the highest ranking of 5*, and another seven the slightly lower ranking of a five.

The RAE is a four-yearly peer review of the quality of research output, and future government funding of each department is affected by the score. A rank of 5* denotes "research quality that equates to attainable levels of international excellence in a majority of sub-areas of activity and attainable levels of national excellence in all others", according to the official criteria.

Cambridge, Oxford, and Sheffield universities received the highest rank. Immediately below were those at Belfast, Bradford, Durham, Leicester, Reading, Southampton and University College London (UCL). The ranking of UCL, which has by far the largest number of Category A "research active staff" at 48.4 full-time equivalent (FTE) personnel, has occasioned some surprise. Reading, also with a score of five, has only eleven FTE staff.

The top scorers have FTEs in the 20s, while the low-scoring departments tend to be very small: Staffordshire University has only two FTE staff, as does Trinity College, Carmarthen. Even so, their ranking of 2 and 3b respectively indicates research at national levels of excellence in up to half, or the majority, of sub-areas of activity.

The only traditional university to score at this level is Newcastle: all of the others have a higher ranking, including the relatively new University of Wales at Lampeter. The two Scottish departments of archaeology, at Edinburgh and Glasgow, and the University of Wales at Cardiff, all had a ranking of four.

The rankings show that more than 65 per cent of university archaeology departments attained international levels of excellence in at least some of their activities, and national levels in most of them.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr W.R. Allmey and Miss V.M. Snell

The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr and Mrs Donald E. Allmey, of Eastcote, Middlesex, and Vicki Marie, daughter of Mr and Mrs George C. Snell, of Ruislip, Middlesex.

Mr C.D.T. Dixon and Miss J.C.G. Lipscomb

The engagement is announced between Christopher David Thomas, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Colin Dixon, and Jane Caroline Grace, daughter of Mr Peter Lipscomb and Mrs Frank Bradley.

Mr P.F. Herman and Miss S. King

The engagement is announced between Patrick, son of Mr and Mrs Jean-Pierre Herman, of Uccle, Brussels, and Siobhan, daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul King, of Tamworth-in-Arden, Warwickshire.

Mr M.R. Heron and Dr K.V. Knights

The engagement is announced between Miles, younger son of Mr and Mrs Richard Heron, of Fryerning, Essex, and Karina, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Knights, of Frimley Green, Surrey.

Mr F.A. Le Maistre and Miss E.S. Campbell

The engagement is announced between Francis, son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Le Maistre, of Jersey, Channel Islands, and Emma, daughter of Mr Ian Campbell and Mrs Roger Porcherot, both of Jersey, Channel Islands.

Mr J.W.S. Mayes and Miss J.M. Watkins

The engagement is announced between Jonathan, eldest son of Mr and Mrs A.W. Mayes, of Caterham, Surrey, and Joanna, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Victor Watkins, of Hertford, Hertfordshire.

Mr E.G. Nicholson and Miss T.J. Grant

The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs Brian Nicholson, of Ringmer, Sussex, and Theresa, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Grant, of Twickenham, Middlesex.

Mr J.D. Relf and Miss A.C. Lucas

The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr David Relf, of St James's, London, SW1, and Mrs Kenneth Deacon, of Broxted, Essex, and Alexandra, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Patrick Lucas, of Nailsea, North Somerset.

Mr S.N.G. Savage and Miss H.V. Suddards

The engagement is announced between Simon, younger son of Mr and Mrs Charles Savage, of Prestbury, Cheshire, and Helen, younger daughter of the late Mr Roger Suddards and of Mrs Liz Suddards, of Bingley, West Yorkshire.

Mr J. Soares Franco and Miss J.M. Bird

The engagement is announced between João, sixth son of Mr and Mrs Ruy Soares Franco, of Estoril, Portugal, and Joanna, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony J. Bird, of Sintra, Portugal.

Marriages

Sir Brooke Fairbairn and Mrs V. Washbourn

A service of blessing was held on Saturday in St Faith's Chapel, Westminster Abbey, after the marriage at Kensington and Chelsea Register Office, of Sir Brooke Fairbairn to Mrs Victoria Washbourn. Canon Donald Gray officiated.

Mr E.T.I. Eyston and Miss A.L. Grounds

The marriage took place on Saturday in Ely Cathedral, Cambridgeshire, of Mr Edward Eyston, son of Mr John and Lady Anne Eyston, of Mapledurham, Oxfordshire, to Miss Alexandra Grounds, daughter of Mr and Mrs Frederick Grounds, of March, Cambridgeshire. The Dean of Ely, the Right Rev Peter Walker, Dom Edward Corbould, OSB, and the Rev Robin Sanders officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Robert Biddulph, Charlotte Kisby, Miss Annie Sansom and Miss Rebecca Jewers. Mr Ben Morgan was best man.

A reception was held at Monastic Barn, Ely.

Mr A. Goddard and Miss T. Krebes

The marriage took place on Friday, February 21, 1997, in London, between Arthur Goddard and Tove Krebes.

Latest wills

Baroness Godber of Willington, of Sandy, Bedfordshire, left estate valued at £46,324 net.

She left any horse belonging to her at her death to the Bedford and District Handicapped Riders Association.

Elizabeth Mary Tebay, of London SW3, left £1,008,873 net.

She left £20,000 to the Ladies' Theatrical Guild, and to the Marie Curie Memorial Foundation; £5,000 to the British Diabetic Association; and the rest of her residuary estate to be divided between St Saviour's Hospital, London, the Theatrical Ladies' Guild, the Children's Aid Society, and the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council.

PERSONAL

No one can come to me unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise him up on the last day. John 6 : 44

BIRTHS

MCMULLAN - On February 19th to Fiona and Kevin a beautiful daughter, Heather Grace.

MUIR - On February 19th in Newcastle, to Lindsey (née Price) and Francis, a son, Christopher Francis, a brother for Helen.

ROBINSON - on February 14th to Delia (née Malim) and David, a daughter, Constance Alix Malim, a sister for Martha.

SALISBURY - on February 22nd 1997 in Hong Kong to Miranda (née Larkins) and Paul, a daughter Jemima, sister for Amber

SENIOR - On 20th February at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead to Inge and Robert Senior a daughter, Lieselotte.

WATKINS - On 18th February 1997, to Tanya (née Reading) and Richard, a son, Louis James, a brother for Alexei.

WHITBREAD - On February 13th to Lynn (née Watson) and Paul a son James Paul, a brother for Rachael.

DEATHS

ALLEN - Gillian Rose on 20th February 1997, peacefully, in hospital aged 68 years. Dearly beloved wife of Francis. Funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium at 11.30am on Wednesday 26th February. All enquiries please to Ernest Lanzer & Son, tel: (0181) 788-2942.

AYLOTT - Rev. William Roy, missionary China and Sarawak, artist, musician, and journalist, on 21 February in Norwich, aged 90 years. Beloved husband of the late Phyllis, loved and respected father of Roger and Adrian, grandfather of Hedley, Caspar, Nerida, Simon and Sarah, father-in-law of Marion and Jenny. Celebration of his life at 2pm on 3 March, Heartsease Methodist Church, Norwich. Interment Seaford, Sussex at 3pm on 4 March. Family flowers only but donations welcome to Amnesty International c/o Peter Taylor, Funeral Directors, 85 Unthank Rd, Norwich.

DEAKIN - Phyllis died peacefully at Waterlooville 19th February aged almost 98 after a full and energetic life. Founder Hon. Sec. UK Federation of Business and Professional Women; Founder Chairman Women's Press Club of London and later Hon. Member of The Press Club; Chairman and later Vice President Society of Women Writers and Journalists; on The Times Editorial Staff 1919-1953 (its first fulltime woman reporter and one of the first six British women war correspondents); Assistant Secretary Press Council 1953-59. She blazed a trail which others followed. Private cremation. No flowers but donations if desired to NSPCC c/o J. Edwards & Son, 13 Hambledon Road, Waterlooville, PO7 7TU.

GROOM - Peter Stanley formerly Captain Groom of Dorset Regiment died 22nd February. Father of Stephen, Claire and Tanz. Has found peace at last. No flowers, donations to British Heart Foundation.

DEATHS

HARRIS - Peacefully at Weybridge Hospital on 20th February 1997 after a brave fight against cancer, William Terence (Terry) Harris aged 56 years, loving husband of Daphne and caring father of Stephen and Zoe. Funeral Thursday 27th February at St James Church, Weybridge, 10.30 am, followed by cremation at Randalls Park Crematorium. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to Sam Beare Ward, Weybridge Hospital or Richmond Cricket Club c/o Walter G. Wortt Funeral Directors, Addlestone.

HERCHOZ - Mark Olivier, aged 64 years, suddenly at home on 12th February. Dearly loved son of Marion and brother of Valerie, Ian and Allen. Funeral Service at St. Michael's Church, Chenies, Rickmansworth, Herts on Friday 28th February at 12 noon. Family flowers only, please, but donations, if wished, to the RNLI c/o James Peddle Ltd, Langwood House, 65 High Street, Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 1EQ.

HOWLER - Edward Christopher. Beloved husband of Erie Bergendahl, father of Olga, Philippa, Frederick and Robert, and of Erling, Alveva and Magnus, grandfather of many, died in Oslo aged 80. Funeral at 3 o'clock on Wednesday 19th March at St. Mary the Virgin, Stanstead, Kent. Enquiries to Viner & Sons 01732 842485.

INNES - Peacefully at The Ochil Nursing Home, Perth, on 20th February 1997, Betty Ida Innes (née Sandeman), in her 91st year, widow of Lt. Col. Reginald Innes late The Black Watch (RHR), mother of Colin, Malcolm and James, and much loved grandmother. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at Fowlis Wester Kirk, near Crieff, on Monday 3rd March 1997 at 2.30 pm to which all friends are invited. No flowers please.

LOCKWOOD - On 21st February peacefully Cynthia, devoted wife of the late Philip, beloved mother of William and Sarah and grandmother. Service at Broadhempston, Totnes, Devon, on Monday 3rd March at 2.30 pm followed by cremation. Perring Funeral Services, (01803) 862417.

MAXWELL-BRODIE - Peter aged 66 years, died tragically on Tuesday 18th February. Beloved husband of Jan and devoted father of Nicky, Lisa and Kate. Loving son of Elsbeth and Bill and brother to Flora, son-in-law to Di and Joe and brother-in-law to Brian. Funeral on Thursday 27th February at 12 noon at St Matthew's Church, Hallowell Road, Northwood, Middlesex. No flowers please. Donations may be sent to Harefield Hospital Fund (Cardiac Research) c/o Mrs P. Warner, Harefield Hospital.

MIGHT - Suddenly on February 19th 1997, Brian Frederick aged 59 years. Operations Director of Banco Mercantil De Sao Paulo, The Stock Exchange, London. Dearly loved husband of Monika, dearly loved father of Andrew John, Elizabeth Grace and Christian. Also a devoted grandfather of Damien, Christopher and Rebekah. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service to take place on Tuesday March 4th at The Manor Park Crematorium, London at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to The Cancer Research Campaign c/o Bennetts (Brentwood) Ltd, 120 High Street, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4AS, tel: (01277) 210104.

DEATHS

MORGAN - Frederick, of New College, Oxford, Doctor of Science, MA, PhD, Committee Chairman of The Royal Atomic Commission of Gt. Britain in Vienna, New York and Geneva, passed away on February 19th aged 80 years, formerly of Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, dearly loved husband of Lucia. Funeral Service at St Mark's Church, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft on Friday, February 28th at 2 pm followed by cremation at Gorleston at 3 pm. Flowers to Cyltoph & Crowe, Chapels of Rest, Lorne Park Road, Lowestoft by 12 noon please.

OSBOOD - Hugh at home on February 20th 1997, much loved husband of Claire and father of Richard and Liz. Funeral Service at Bath Crematorium on Wednesday February 26th at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations for the Salvation Army c/o C.S. Bowyer Ltd., 2 The Ballpit, Bradford-on-Avon, Wilts.

SELBY - Ralph Walford on 21 February 1997 in Hayling Island, aged 81, after a stroke and a second heart attack. Much loved father of Virginia, Pamela and Cynthia and grandfather of Meredith, Giallanaz, Katie, Lara, Gemma and Jessica. Funeral service at 2pm on Tuesday 4th March at St Marys Church, Hayling Island. Family flowers only but donations may be sent to The National Trust Ightham Mote Appeal or St. Marys Church, c/o Grady's Funeral Directors, 23 Mengham Road, Hayling Island, PO11 9BG. Memorial service in London to be announced later.

SHORES - Charles Howell on 14th February aged 95 years; notable chartered surveyor. Much loved husband, grandfather and great-grandfather, Funeral at Weeley Crematorium, Clacton, Essex, on 27th February at 1.15 pm.

WARWICK - Edith (Babs) peacefully on 17th February aged 98. Much loved mother, grandmother, Great Grandmother and Great Great Grandmother. Funeral at St. Dunstans Church, Monks Risborough at 12.30pm on Tuesday 4th March.

WICKLOW - on 21st February 1997 in the loving care of the Matron and Staff of Newtownapark House Nursing Home after a long illness. Eleanor, Countess of Wicklow, (née Butler) widow of William James Cecil Howard 8th Earl Of Wicklow and beloved sister of Honor deeply regretted by her sister, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends. Rest in Peace. Funeral today Monday after 10 a.m. Mass in the Church of the Assumption, Dalkey to Kilbride Churchyard, Ashlow, County Wicklow. Interment private.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

BAGNALL - George. Today, every day love bridges. xxxx

HERSEY - Peter J. Died 23rd February 1984. Loved and remembered every day, Mary.

BIRTHDAYS

TO MY White Knight on his 40th Birthday. My dreams come true. Love you, Monica XXX

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RE: ROBERT JAMES HUME (DECEASED)
By Order dated 20th January 1997 of the High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland, Chancery Division in proceedings entitled - In the Matter of the Estate of Robert James Hume Deceased, (late of 27 Newlands Road, Magheragall, Lisburn, County Antrim), who died on 16th October 1996, Ann McConnell - James McWilliam 1996/1553. The following Inquiry was directed:-
An Enquiry as to whether each of William Hume, Samuel Hume and Matilda Hamilton (nee Hume), uncles and aunt respectively of Robert James Hume ("the Intestate") deceased, who died intestate, if so, whom such persons died and whether they left any issue who survived the Intestate and, if so, as to the identity of such issue and if any of such deceased whom such issue died, and who are their personal representatives.
The said Matilda Hamilton (nee Hume) married on 14 July 1879; The said William Hume and Samuel Hume are both believed to have gone to England and never to have returned to Ireland.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons claiming to be entitled under the said Inquiry are to send by post prepaid to J. W. McNeill & Son, Solicitors, 9 Cross Street, Lurgan, County Antrim so as to reach their address on or before 12th March 1997 their full names, addresses and descriptions, and full particulars of their claims, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of the said Order unless the Court on application otherwise orders.
DATED this 20th day of February 1997
Master (Chancery)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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LEGAL NOTICES

No. 00140 of 1997.
IN THE HIGH COURT

OBITUARIES

FRANK LAUNDER



Frank Launder, screenwriter and film director, died in Monaco yesterday aged 89. He was born in 1907.



From Launder's film *The Pure Hell of St Trinian's*, 1960

PRETENDING to no higher purpose than to entertain, Frank Launder wrote, directed and produced some of the most popular films in the heyday of British cinema. During the Second World War he and his long-term associate Sidney Gilliat were responsible for such hits as *Millions Like Us* (1943), *Waterloo Road* (1944) and *The Rake's Progress* (1945). But it was for their quintessentially English, schoolgirl farce, *The Belles of St Trinian's* (1954), that they will be best remembered.

The story of a raucous and bankrupt school for girls in which more time is spent backing horses than sitting on the school bench, the film was an enormous commercial success. In the words of one critic it was "not so much a film as an entertainment on celluloid, a huge charade, a rich pile of idiotic and splendidly senseless images". Launder and Gilliat followed it up with four sequels including *Blue Murder at St Trinian's* (1957) and *The Pure Hell of St Trinian's* (1960).

Frank Launder was born in Hitchin, Hertfordshire, and educated in Brighton. While working in the Civil Service he joined the Brighton Repertory Company and it was when the company presented one of his own comedies, *There Was No Signpost*, that his movie career began. A film producer spotted it and offered him a trial as a scriptwriter. With the demise of silent movies, dialogue was becoming important in the film industry for the first time.

Launder entered the cinema in the scenario department of British International Pictures at Elstree, where he started by designing titles and then turned to scriptwriting. Films were made in the hectic studio "factory" system of those days, and Launder often found that his scripts were being torn, quite literally, page by page from his typewriter for immediate use.

Among his assignments were literary adaptations, such as Shaw's *How He Lied to Her Husband* and Hardy's *Under the Greenwood Tree*. In the latter Launder found himself being asked to kiss his hand in front of the microphone because the primitive equipment of the time could not pick up the sound of members of the cast kissing in front of the camera. At this time Launder also wrote material for the comedians Leslie Fuller and Ernie Lotinga, and devised the story *Oh Mr Porter*, a delightful comedy starring Will Hay.

Launder's first collaboration with Sidney Gilliat was in 1936 when they were jointly responsible for the script of a thriller, *Seven Sinners*, and it was in that genre that they first made their mark. Two years later their script for *The Lady Vanishes* was filmed by Alfred Hitchcock. It introduced the intrepid Englishmen, Charters and Caldicott (played by Basil Radford and Naunton Wayne), who so caught the public fancy that they went on to appear in other films and even had their own radio series.

Night Train to Munich, directed by Carol Reed, was another successful thriller from a Launder-Gilliat script, and they worked with Reed again on *Young Mr Pitt*. In 1943 they turned to directing and made a distinguished debut with *Millions Like Us*, a warm and sympathetic study of women factory workers in wartime.

After that they took turns to direct but they continued to collaborate on scripts and to act as co-producers. Their individual contributions are difficult to separate. From 1944 they had their own production company, Individual Pictures. Their trademark became a pair of empty folding director's chairs, with the names Launder and Gilliat on the backs. But, one not wanting to take precedence over the other, they regularly swapped the chairs around so that neither name always appeared first.

Among the films directed by Launder in the postwar period were *I See a Dark Stranger*, a comedy thriller, and *Captain Boycott*, an historical drama, both with Irish backgrounds; and *The Blue Lagoon*, from the novel by H. de Vere Stacpoole. But by far his most successful picture at this time was *The Happiest Days of Your Life*, set in a girls' school and drawing rich comedy performances from Alistair Sim (a favourite Launder-Gilliat actor), Margaret Rutherford and Joyce Grenfell.

In 1954 Launder turned to comedy in a broader idiom with *The Belles of St Trinian's*, which was inspired by Ronald Searle's drawings of dreadful schoolgirls. It contained another tour de force by Alistair Sim, who played both the headmistress and her no-good brother. The enormous popularity of the film led to four sequels.

Launder's favourite film was *Geordie* (1955), a whimsical piece about a weakly Scottish boy who becomes an Olympic athlete. His later work as a director included *The Bridal Path* and *Joey Boy*, an army comedy. During the 1960s Launder and Gilliat were active in the management of British Lion, the independent production and distribution company, and this left them less time for their own projects.

After *Endless Night* (1972), a suspense story based on the novel by Agatha Christie, Gilliat virtually retired, but Launder went on to complete the fifth instalment of the St Trinian's saga, *The Wildcats of St Trinian's* in 1980. This was to be his last film. He retired to live at Cap d'Ail in the South of France.

Sidney Gilliat died in 1994. Launder is survived by his second wife Bernadette O'Farrell, who had appeared in several of his films, and by two children from his first marriage and two children from his second.

MARGARET BRANCH

Margaret Branch, founder of the National Association for Gifted Children, died on January 30 aged 84. She was born on April 18, 1912.



AS A social worker, Margaret Branch recognised the pressing need for society to do something for gifted children who, through boredom and frustration, could so easily become disturbed and misunderstood. It was largely due to her vision, energy and persuasiveness that the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) was founded in 1966. From then on it was moulded by her powerful, if idiosyncratic, personality. Her strong principles and ideas, though others may not always have agreed with them, were nonetheless treated with respect.

Branch did not believe that gifted children should go to special schools but that teachers and parents should be trained to recognise and deal with them. What a gifted child needed, she argued, was a richer, deeper curriculum, rather than a quicker journey through a normal one. She was always adamant that the identities of gifted children should be protected and that no family should be excluded from membership of the organisation because of financial inability.

The NAGC now has a steady membership of around 2,000 families and 200 schools. Its opinion and expertise is widely recognised and sought. In its branches all over Britain, gifted children can mix with others like them in "an atmosphere where specialness is ordinariness and where they do not have to act others' ideas of ordinariness but can be themselves".

Margaret Johnston, as she was before her marriage to Donald Branch, was born in London but taken to Vancouver by her parents when she was only a few weeks old. The family only returned to London 12 years later.

She trained and worked as a social worker in Liverpool before, in 1938, going to Prague to teach English. But with the invasion of the Czech Republic the next year she returned to London where, on the outbreak of the Second World War, she joined the WAAFs. Subsequently she became involved in the French Resistance, and, captured by the Nazis, she was tortured and interned in a concentration camp.

After the war she worked with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) in Poland before winning a scholarship in 1947 to study mental health at the LSE. Graduating, she worked as a pyschiatric social worker.

Branch was particularly fascinated by the work of Karl Jung. When he invited her to Zurich, she accepted the offer with alacrity, and spent ten months working under his supervision. "He was wonderfully irascible," she later wrote, "and the basis of all I know. Most of what skill I have is with him."

Returning to Britain, she continued to work as a psychiatric social worker, first at Bexley Hospital, 1948-53, and then at Maida Vale Hospital, before taking on a senior psychiatric social worker's post in the York Clinic of Guy's Hospital where she remained until her retirement.

It was when she was at Guy's that, in 1965, she attended the conference which lead to her launching the NAGC, combining her training in psychology with the educational expertise of her colleague, the former headmistresss Camilla Ruegg. Branch and Ruegg, who shared a home throughout their lives (Branch separated from her husband), worked doggedly. Within nine months the first NAGC camp was held at Tekel's Park in Camberley. Branch worked late into the night preparing for each new day, and yet would still have the energy and enthusiasm to be up long before dawn, to lead groups of children on badger-watching forays. Her 1966 book *Gifted Children* focused professional attention on the association.

Soon the NAGC had grown into an organisation of national status, recognised as holding authoritative views. Branch was a determined publicist, never letting slip any chance to appear on television or radio. Though diminutive in stature, her at times shrewish temper and her dogged determination made her a force to be reckoned with.

On retiring from the NHS in 1973 she continued to practise privately as a psychotherapist and was particularly interested in the counselling of transsexuals. She also worked for a while as the full-time general secretary of the NAGC. It was with great reluctance that she eventually let go of the reins.

Margaret Branch's husband, from whom she had been separated for many years, predeceased her in 1970.

THE REVEREND MICHAEL HOLLINGS

The Reverend Michael Hollings, MBE, MC, Roman Catholic priest and author, died on February 21 aged 75. He was born on December 30, 1921.



Hollings at a service during the Notting Hill Carnival

WHEN Michael Hollings, then a recently demobilised major in the Coldstream Guards, first visited a chaplain with thoughts of becoming a priest, he was asked why he wanted to be ordained. "To help people," was his immediate answer. In his ensuing career he fulfilled this aim so abundantly that some considered him a saint.

The regimes he established as Roman Catholic chaplain at Oxford University and then as parish priest of St. Anselm's, Southall, and finally of St Mary of the Angels, Bayswater, were models of enlightened pastoral care. At each, the door was kept open 24 hours a day to provide access for anyone, not least the "ladies and gentlemen of the street" as Hollings delicately described the down-and-outs.

He frequently slept in a chair, having given up his bed to someone who had arrived in the night in a state of crisis, and one often recounted story of his ministry tells of how one night a burglar broke into his room while he was meditating in the darkness. Startled at finding someone there, the intruder was just about to flee, when Hollings called out that he would not call the police if the man would return for a talk with him the next day. The intruder eventually became one of Hollings's most loyal parishioners.

It was through an intense spirituality grounded in prayer that Hollings arrived at his particular brand of faith. He was a prolific writer on the subject, publishing some 30 books, including the popular *Hey-You!* (1955), *The Living Priesthood* (1977) and *Christ Died at Notting Hill* (1985). Yet Hollings was an unconventional figure, quite prepared to act on his own interpretation of Roman Catholic precepts.

He was progressive, strongly ecumenical, in favour of the ordination of women, and always prepared to speak his mind. He described his attitude to the Church as "an obedience which seems like disobedience", insisting that it was Christ he sought to follow, and that the immediate expression of the Church could sometimes be a stumbling block. Perhaps it was this individuality which, in the end, precluded him from succeeding Cardinal Heenan as Archbishop of Westminster in 1975.

Michael Richard Hollings was in fact directly descended from an Archbishop of Wesminster, Cardinal Weld, on his mother's side. But his father's family were resolutely Church of England.

He was first educated according to his father's faith, but was later sent to the Jesuits at Beaumont College. Aged 17 when the war broke out, he persuaded his mother (his father having died some years earlier) to let him forgo his final year of schooling and try for Oxford immediately. Hollings caught a bus into the nearby city, and returned having somehow charmed his way into acceptance by the St. Catherine's Society.

While at Oxford, Hollings served in the Home Guard, and helped out as an air raid warden in shelters in the Commercial Road area of London. In 1942 he was called up and sent to Sandhurst, and subsequently commissioned into the Coldstream Guards. After a period on King's Guard at Buckingham Palace, he embarked on a highly successful war in North Africa (where he was wounded), Italy and Palestine. He was awarded the Military Cross in 1943 for a bayonet charge he led in Italy, capturing seven Germans. He was also mentioned in dispatches. Of this period, Hollings would later say: "God came out of my life and people came in."

With the end of the war, Hollings felt an emptiness in his life which was gradually filled with the return of his faith. He was interviewed for the priesthood by Cardinal Griffin, who, thinking that Hollings was ten years older than he was, arranged for him to undergo the (abbreviated) preparation for ordination for those with late vocations at the Beda College in Rome. The years in Rome were something of a dark phase for Hollings who struggled with the loss of his previous identity and standing, finding lifelines in stringent living and constant prayer.

Hollings's first posting on his return to England after ordination in 1950 was to St Patrick's Church, Soho Square, then a dilapidated establishment where he once woke to find a rat chewing his hair. The human diversity of the area fulfilled his hopes of working with people, although his relations with his superiors were somewhat strained. The parish priest disapproved of his accepting invitations to dinner, writing film reviews for *Focus* magazine, and spending time with the theatrical community. Hollings was particularly irked by the parish policy of refusing to answer the door or telephone while the priests were eating. He determined that he would keep any church in which he might have authority in the future constantly open to all who needed him.

After four years in Soho, Hollings was instructed to report to Westminster Cathedral to take up work as a chaplain. He was particularly uncomfortable with the pomp and ceremony attendant on that role, later describing the Pontifical High Mass as having been largely a matter of dressing and undressing the Cardinal to music. Far more satisfying to him was his involvement, from the late 1950s, as religious adviser to various television companies. He considered the rigours of television appearances invaluable to his development as a preacher.

In 1959 Hollings was appointed Chaplain to the Roman Catholics at Oxford University where, to top up his meagre funding, he took to writing, giving talks and running retreats. Here, for the first time, he had a relatively free hand to run things his way, and he vigorously set about putting his open house philosophy into action.

Hollings gradually developed a reputation as a wise counsellor. Doctors, heads of colleges and psychiatrists made extensive use of his services. He was later equally successful in his inner city parishes, as at home with the drug addicts or the Sikhs of Southall as he had been with university undergraduates. During his time at Bayswater, the local Notting Hill Carnival was threatened by racial tensions. It was to Michael Hollings that the warring sides turned. He was the one man trusted enough by all to act as mediator.

The esteem in which Hollings was held made it all the more shocking and painful when, in 1996, he was accused in the *News of the World* of having improperly approached an adolescent boy placed in his care 25 years earlier. The diocese of Westminster sent him on enforced "administrative leave" for the six months it took the police to decide that there was no basis for any action to be taken. Meanwhile his parishioners rallied to his support, accusing the church authorities of handling the matter ineptly. After he was reinstated, Hollings wrote to friends that he was at peace over the matter, but the strain the episode placed on his already frail health was plain to see.

Despite the ascetic side to Hollings's character (while at the Beda, he developed the habit of sleeping on the floor), he was also more than capable of enjoying the good things of life, including a large gin and tonic from time to time. He particularly loved social meals, which allowed his wit and ready laughter to come into play. He detested pomposity, and would seek to deflate it whenever it arose, and could also seem remote or off-hand if he sensed his valuable time being wasted. But to those in need of it he gave his time wholeheartedly until the end.

Hollings is survived by an unmarried sister and a brother in the United States.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev John Angle, Assistant Curate (NSM), Clevedon St Andrew, Christ Church, and St Peter: to be Assistant Curate (NSM), Worle Team Ministry (Bath & Wells).

The Rev Alexander Armstrong, NSM, Livingston (Edinburgh): to be Assistant Curate, Cleator Moor and Cleator, and Frizington and Arlecdon (Carlisle).

The Rev Nicholas Ash, Priest-in-charge, Flookburgh and part-time Assistant Stewardship Officer (Carlisle): to be Priest-in-charge, Flookburgh and Carlisle Diocesan Director-designate of Ordinands.

The Rev Peter Bannister, Vicar, St James, Taunton: to be also a Prebendary of Wells Cathedral.

The Rev Kenneth Beake, Priest-in-charge, St Stephen, Norwich and Diocesan Director of Ordinands (Norwich): to be also an Honorary Canon of Norwich Cathedral.

The Rev James Bell, Adviser for Ministry, Willesden (London): to be Director of Ministry and Training, and Canon Residentiary of Ripon Cathedral.

The Rev Margaret Bradnum, Warden of Readers and Co-ordinator of Lay Training (Wakefield): to be also Principal, Wakefield Ministry Scheme.

Canon Julia Butterworth, Team Vicar, St Andrew, Whitstable: to be Priest-in-charge, Tenterden St Michael, and Diocesan Spirituality Adviser (Canterbury).

The Rev Simon Butler, Assistant Curate, St Joseph the Worker, Northolt (London): to be Vicar, Immanuel and St Andrew, Streatham (Southwark).

The Rev Geoffrey Calway, Curate (NSM), Holy Trinity, Horfield (Bristol): to be Priest-in-charge, Publow w Pensford, Compton Dando and Chelwood (Bath & Wells).

The Rev Jonathan Clark, Director of Studies, Southern Training Scheme for Christian Ministry: to be Chaplain, University of North London.

The Rev Hereward Cooke, Rural Dean of Norwich East, Senior Industrial Chaplain and Assistant Priest, St Peter Mancroft (Norwich): to be also an Honorary Canon of Norwich Cathedral.

The Rev Peter Cowper, Curate, Kippax w Allerton Bywater: to be Curate, Stanningley (Ripon).

The Rev Victor Daley, Vicar, Cheddar and Rural Dean of Axbridge: to be also a Prebendary of Wells Cathedral.

The Rev Ann Easter, NSM, Forest Gate, Emmanuel w St Peter, Upton Cross, and Assistant Area Dean of Newham: to be Area Dean of Newham (Chelmsford).

The Rev Diana Fisher, Assistant Curate (NSM), East Leake, West Leake, Stanford-on-Soar, Rempstone and Costock: to be Assistant Curate (NSM), West Bridgford St Giles (Southwell).

The Rev Richard Frank, Rector, Greystoke Team Ministry, Priest-in-charge, Patterdale, Convener of Non-Stipendiary Ministers, Rural Dean of Penrith (Carlisle): to be also an Honorary Canon of Carlisle Cathedral.

The Rev David Fudger, Priest-in-charge, St Hugh, Bermondsey (Charterhouse Mission): to be Parish Priest (half-time), The Ascension, Blackheath, and Adviser on Evangelism (half-time), Woolwich Area Mission Team (Southwark).

Resignations and retirements

Canon David Baxter, Vice-Provost and Precentor of Wakefield Cathedral: to retire June 9.

The Rev Richard Cloete, Rector, Wincanton and Pen Selwood (Bath & Wells): to resign March 8.

Canon George Farran, Chancellor of Wells Cathedral: to retire June 30.

The Rev John Furness, Rector, Swyncombe w Britwell Salome (Oxford): retired January 31.

Canon David Owen, Team Rector, Swan Team Ministry (Oxford): to retire July 31.

The Rev Leslie Robinson, Vicar, Wymeswold and Prestwold (Leicester): to retire February 28.

The Rev Keith Vivian, Rector, Chew Stock w Nempnett Thrubwell and Norton Malreward (Bath & Wells): to retire May 31.

LANDSCAPE IN ART
PICTURES AS REGISTERS OF CHANGE

(From A Correspondent)

It is commonplace experience that the look of towns and cities alters radically and quickly; that towns transform themselves. The Delft of to-day looks utterly different from the town in Vermeer's "View of Delft." The modification of the open landscape, though slower, proceeds with a greater thoroughness and rapidity than we know. Mediterranean Europe most likely had its general "used" aspect of to-day 2,000 years ago. Not, however, until about the 15th century did the whole of effective Europe have its occupied and used appearance. And by that time parts of Mediterranean Europe had fallen back towards ruin, through excessive use. The painters, in their backgrounds and landscapes, have recorded the subsequent changes in the appearance of Europe. It would be more correct, perhaps, to say that they have registered the kind of change, for the record is complete neither for time nor place. Landscape forced only a slow recognition from the painters, and has not yet properly entered literature. On that account we depend, for information, on the backgrounds of the early painters, and are hampered, more or less, by the artists' imperfect technique, faulty observation, and habit of making up scenes from memory. With later landscape pictures we have to remember that artists paint chosen scenes and that creative composition adapts the object to its idea. The early Flemings and Italians know how different were the states of the Low Countries and Italy in the 15th century; the former green and growing, the latter barren, and gone to waste. If, however, we study the backgrounds of a chain of artists, such as Giovanni and Gentile Bellini, Raphael, Titian, and Tintoretto, who cover about 150 years of continuous painting, we discern nothing less than the re-afforestation of Italy during the late 15th and the 16th centuries. Trees are planted, grow to be gay saplings, multiply, and gather into woods, as the canvases are passed in review. And foreigners continue to produce the same evidence of more and older trees in Italy in later time — Claude and the Poussins in the 17th century and Turner right down to the first half of the 19th century. Turner, indeed, shows that parts of Italy were heavily wooded in his time. Coming back to the north, we can take such a chain as Dürer, Rubens and Hobbema, and find, over the 200 years of their painting, wildness and solitude becoming rarer. The evidence of great landscape-painting is continued in the 18th century, in England, by Gainsborough, Crome, Constable, and Turner; and, if it be only in roads, embankments, and bridges, the slow change is nevertheless apparent, even in this informal England. We have to go to France to witness the changes of the 19th century properly, but France alone convinces us that the landscape suffered more changes in the 19th century than during the 400 preceding years! From the birth of Corot to the death of Monet is 130 years, and the French landscape-painters of the first half of that period — Corot, Daubigny, Rousseau, Harpignies — differ from those of the latter half — Cezanne, Pissarro, Puvis de Chavannes, Monet — on account of more than a revolution in art. The thing to be painted underwent a transformation that gave the latter group a kind of new material for art.

ON THIS DAY

February 24, 1930

The unnamed correspondent who submitted this article was Marcel Aurousseau.

هكذا من الاصل

NEWS

Warning on 'human clone'

■ The chilling prospect of a woman giving birth to an identical twin of her own father was raised after the news that scientists have created the world's first clone of an adult animal.

Dolly, the Finn Dorset lamb which is the identical twin of its genetic mother, grazed on an experimental farm near Edinburgh while ethics experts gave a warning that it could be the harbinger of a scientific revolution in which life could be endlessly re-created without the need for sperm..... **Page 1**

Kohl's rival seeks to delay euro

■ Gerhard Schröder, the German Social Democrat most likely to challenge Chancellor Helmut Kohl in next year's election, made his strongest commitment to delaying European monetary union. He said: "You have to be able to stop a train which is running in the wrong direction"..... **Pages 1, 12**

Fashion capital

Vivienne Westwood, the grand-dame of British fashion, opened London Fashion Week. It was her first show in London for eight years, reinforcing the capital's emergence as a major fashion city ..... **Page 1**

Great greens

Vegetables genetically engineered to give enhanced protection against cancer could soon be available on shop shelves, according to scientists ..... **Page 2**

Not cricket

The proposed sale of a 130-year-old village cricket club, near Weybridge, Surrey, to building developers has outraged locals. They accuse club officials of running it down to gain a £6 million windfall from the sale..... **Page 3**

Five die in blaze

A Bangladeshi couple and their three young children died when fire destroyed their second-floor flat above their Indian restaurant in north London ..... **Page 4**

New goal craze

Goal celebrations are being raised to new artistic heights as footballers of Clissold Park Rovers take lessons in balletic lifts, spins and twirls ..... **Page 7**

Reforming welfare

Part Six of *The Times* guide to election issues examines the main parties' approach to welfare reform..... **Page 6**

Pull of the Irish

British labourers are descending on Ireland to take up jobs in the booming construction industry, after centuries of migration in the other direction ..... **Page 8**

Grave diggers

Archaeologists have begun excavating a mass grave of slaves who perished when treasure ship *London* foundered with all hands 200 years ago. The site on a North Devon beach was uncovered after severe Atlantic storms ..... **Page 9**

Reshaping Nato

The White House, facing Russian opposition to Nato's expansion, today presents a report designed to bolster US policy and appease critics ..... **Page 10**

Arab outrage

Arabs are outraged at Binyamin Netanyahu's plan to build homes for 6,500 Jews in occupied East Jerusalem. The Israeli Cabinet is to decide on the project tomorrow ..... **Page 12**

Snub for Zhao

A request by Zhao Ziyang, deposed as General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party during the Tiananmen Square crisis, to attend Deng Xiaoping's funeral has been denied..... **Page 13**

Mercenary force

Papua New Guinea has recruited international mercenaries to attack secessionists who control Bougainville..... **Page 14**

Man rescues daughter from reptile

■ Karla Bredl, 21, an Australian wild-life park attendant, survived a crocodile attack after her father jumped on the reptile's back and gouged out its eyes as horrified tourists looked on. She fell during a crocodile feeding display for tourists. From her hospital bed she said she wanted to return to work as soon as possible..... **Page 14**

GLYN GENNINGTI



The P&O cruise liner, *Canberra*, sails past the Opera House as she arrives in Sydney harbour on her final voyage

Barings: The deputy chairman of the collapsed merchant bank and nine others face disqualification as directors for 15 years..... **Page 48**

Sumitomo: The chief executive of the London Metal Exchange will face questions over whether he breached the Financial Services Act during the scandal..... **Page 48**

Yorkshire Electricity: American Electric Power has approached the UK utility with a £1.4 billion take-over deal. It is seeking an agreed bid which would leave Britain with only one independent regional electricity company..... **Page 48**

Disney: US institutional shareholders are set to oppose the re-election of top executives at Disney after protests over the chairman's pay package..... **Page 45**

Melvyn Bragg writes: "If public libraries did not exist, then who would be bold enough to invent them today?"..... **Page 18**

Improved with age: Jonathan Miller's *Cosi fan tutte*, with frocks by Armani, is revived at Covent Garden and, it proves to be better the second time around..... **Page 18**

Who dares wins: Saturday's instalment in the Philharmonia's Ligeti festival was such a bold and crazy piece of programming, marrying 14th-century vocal music to 1960s avant-garde, that it deserved to succeed..... **Page 18**

Theatrical quartet: BBC2's *Performance* season is celebrating its seventh year by screening four of the most enterprising West End hits of the past two years..... **Page 19**

Bronwen Maddox: "Alan Clark would not approve, having damned those who buy their own furniture rather than inheriting it. But in the transient community of the American capital, there is a camaraderie among those of us who rent not just our houses but our beds and cushions"..... **Page 16**

Dunblane remembered: A year on, the couple who lost a son are struggling to create a future..... **Page 17**

High price: Should insurers have the right to know about our genetic background?..... **Page 15**

Avoiding sunburn: If you are planning to bask in the Caribbean sun this summer, eat plenty of mackerel before you go..... **Page 15**

Football: A superb goal by Vinnie Jones earned Wimbledon a 1-0 win over Arsenal..... **Page 25**

Tennis: Tim Henman produced a disappointing performance in losing 6-2, 7-5, 6-4, to Marc Rosset in the final of the European Community Championship..... **Page 27**

Cricket: Nick Knight made an unbeaten 84 as England achieved a bloodless victory over New Zealand in the second one-day international in Auckland..... **Page 26**

Athletics: Jamie Baulch underlined his enormous potential in winning the 400 metres at the indoor meeting in Birmingham..... **Page 27**

Rugby union: Harlequins underlined their capacity for occasional brilliance by beating London-rivals Saracens 28-21 in the quarter-finals of the Pilkington Cup..... **Page 35**

Racing: Jockey Richard Dunwoody has criticised racecourse medical procedures after being injured in a fall at Kempton..... **Page 32**

Rugby league: Paris St Germain showed that they will have to be taken seriously, despite losing narrowly to Salford..... **Page 33**

IN THE TIMES

■ **FILM FAIR**
After taking Hollywood by storm, how will *The English Patient* fare at the Berlin Festival?

■ **LAW**
Why you will pay more in court costs if you want a divorce

Preview: Ray Mears focuses on the Inuit in this series on how indigenous peoples survive in extreme conditions. *World of Survival* (BBC 2, 8.30pm) **Review:** The last episode of *Ballykissangel* has Matthew Bond gasping for breath... **Page 47**

Cost of benefit

There is some merit in Mr Blair's argument that only the party that founded the modern welfare state would be trusted to reform it. Such reforms are likely to be enacted, whichever party wins..... **Page 21**

Thought for food

Food manufacturers should aim to convince the public that doubt about genetically modified food has been eliminated..... **Page 21**

Tunnel vision

The Tube needs more than botching and patching. If London cares about its future, then its banks, brokers and businesses must be ready to pay..... **Page 21**

JONATHAN SACKS

Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau and others believed that individuals could act together on the basis of a contract which brought into being a state. They discounted the social in favour of the political. This was a great error. For without trust there can be no contracts, and without moral relationships there is no trust..... **Page 20**

PETER RIDDELL

Ever since the abolition of the Greater *London Council in the* mid-1980s, the Tories have resisted a strategic authority for London. A Labour government would create one..... **Page 20**

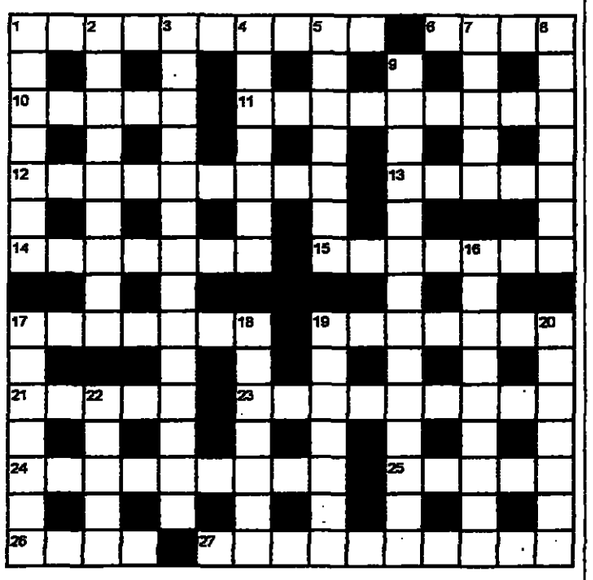
Frank Launder, screenwriter and film director; **The Reverend Michael Hollings,** Roman Catholic priest; **Margaret Branch,** founder of the National Association for Gifted Children..... **Page 23**

Judges and Home Office clash on sentencing; Bishop's Lenten reading, Kilkenny in Germany .. **Page 21**

It is time for Europe to remind the US sharply that it has to take its allies' views into account
— La Repubblica

1, 5, 8, 9, 23, 27. Bonus: 22
Eight winners shared the jackpot of £7,335,320, with each receiving £916,915; 37 win £61,000 for five numbers and the bonus ball; 1,912 win £737 for five numbers; 88,555 win £35 for four balls, and 1,416,665 win £10 for three balls

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,411



ACROSS

1 Furious English master who's out for a duck? (10).
6 A man's device for focusing light (4).
10 Vehicle for revolution (5).
11 Regularly occurring test containing nine parts (9).
12 Bill's passing is producing dramatic scenes (9).
13 Neat view of the plant (2-3).
14 First and second misses (7).
15 Security system installed originally in regimental HQ (7).
17 Successful bounder, comparatively innocent (7).
19 Birds resorting to caves (7).
21 Farewell to the French about to depart (5).
23 Make free with divesture of chains (9).
24 Forward-looking governor put in to hold up movement out of control (9).
25 Asian king joining a queen in the islands (5).
26 Career that was of little value (4).
27 Like Vasco da Gama describing a man-of-war? (10).

DOWN

1 Spoken request for identification of this tree? (4-3).
2 Profitable development of vital cure (9).
3 Suffer a blow and be short of cash (4,3,7).
4 See jokers holding up nurse (7).
5 English men dispossessed by law (7).
7 Former priest upset deportee (5).
8 Prominent stranger seen in street (7).
9 Stubborn officer commanding many in inauspicious situation (14).
16 Stockbrokers initially embezzle to play the market (9).
17 One demonstrating approval for a striker (7).
18 Soak last of 19 in port for this dish (7).
19 Fruit found in simple dwelling after almost a month (7).
20 Unproductive set stirred up anger (7).
22 Clubs in which naughty sailors may be found (5).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,410 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Guernsey 14C (57F); lowest day max: Lough Fea, County Tyrone 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Capel Curig, Caernarfonshire, 1.26in; highest sunshine: Aberdeen 6.6hr.

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☐ **General:** England and Wales will see some breaks in the cloud for a time, but a generally cloudy and wet day is in prospect. Later, in the South, the rain will turn lighter, with the showers becoming well scattered. There will be a strong southwesterly wind, touching gale force locally at times.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a stormy day with gales or severe gales from the south or southwest. There will be frequent blustery showers, some of them heavy and falling as snow on the mountains, and to lower levels in some of the heavier showers.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales:** showers or longer periods of rain, becoming drier in places later. Wind southwesterly, strong, locally gale. Cooler. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **E England, Central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee:** some bright spells at first, but showers or longer periods of rain later. Wind southwesterly, fresh to strong. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow:** showers or longer periods of rain. Wind southwesterly, strong, locally gale. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** blustery showers or longer periods of rain. Wind southerly, strong to gale. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland:** frequent heavy and blustery showers, with snow on higher ground. Wind south to southwest, gale, locally severe gale. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday:** continuing unsettled and windy, with showers or longer spells of rain.

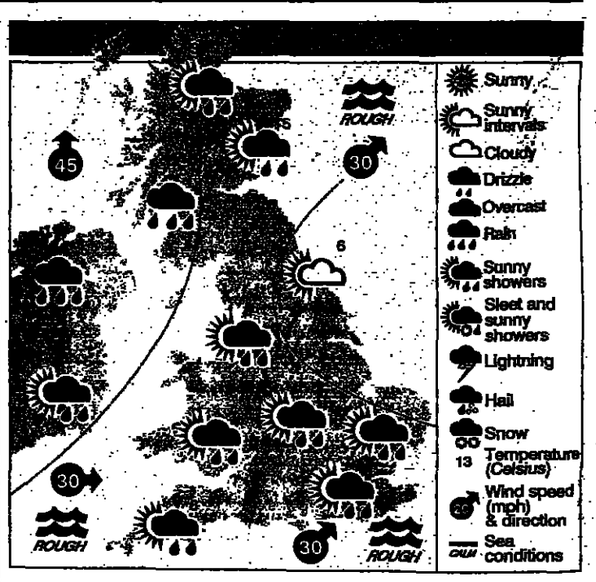
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; da=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	6.6	0.01	10	50	s	Littlehmptn	3.4	-	11	52	s
Anglesey	2.4	0.06	10	50	r	London	2.4	0.01	13	55	s
Aspatria	4.5	0.28	9	48	r	Lowestoft	4.3	-	12	54	b
Aviemore	5.6	0.17	7	45	sh	Manchester	X				
Belfast	2.8	0.09	9	48	s	Margate	-	-	11	52	s
Birmingham	-	0.03	11	52	r	Minehead	0.1	0.47	11	52	r
Bognor R	2.9	-	11	52	b	Morecambe	3.5	0.44	10	50	r
Bournem'th	0.4	0.01	10	50	r	Newcastle	5.1	-	12	54	b
Bristol	-	0.03	11	52	c	Norwich	2.3	-	13	55	b
Buxton	0.1	0.11	10	50	r	Oxford	-	0.02	11	52	r
Cardiff	-	0.17	10	50	r	Penzance	X	0.20	11	52	r
Clacton	3.3	-	9	48	b	Poole	-	0.01	11	52	r
Colwyn Bay	2.2	0.17	12	54	r	Prestatyn	X	0.09	11	52	r
Cromer	2.0	-	13	55	br	Ross-o-wye	-	0.13	11	52	r
Eastbourne	2.2	-	11	52	b	Ryde	X				
Edinburgh	5.8	0.14	8	46	s	Salcombe	X				
Eskdalemuir	3.5	0.83	8	46	r	Sandown	4.1	-	11	52	s
Exmouth	-	0.10	11	52	r	Saunton Snd	-	0.20	10	50	s
Falmouth	-	0.13	10	50	sh	Scarboro'	1.5	0.18	12	54	r
Fishguard	2.1	0.11	11	52	r	Shanklin	2.7	-	11	52	b
Folkestone	0.8	-	10	50	c	Shrewsbury	X				
Glasgow	4.7	0.07	10	50	b	Skegness	0.3	0.02	12	54	r
Guernsey	3.6	0.01	14	57	c	Southport	1.7	0.06	9	48	r
Hastings	2.3	-	10	50	b	Southsea	1.3	-	11	52	c
Hayling I.	2.9	-	10	50	c	Stornoway	5.6	0.77	7	45	sh
Herne Bay	0.2	-	11	52	b	Swanage	1.5	0.01	11	52	r
Hove	5.2	X	9	48	b	Teignmouth	-	0.05	11	52	r
Hunstanton	X	-	12	54	c	Tenby	-	0.18	10	50	sh
Isle of Man	3.7	0.07	9	48	s	Tiree	3.4	0.20	8	46	sh
Jersey	0.8	-	12	54	c	Torquay	0.2	0.06	12	54	d
Kinloss	4.8	0.01	9	48	b	Tynemouth	-	0.06	10	50	s
Leeds	1.8	0.15	11	52	r	Ventnor	4.0	-	11	52	s
Lerwick	3.1	0.32	8	46	sh	West-s-mare	-	0.04	11	52	r
Leuchars	6.5	0.01	10	50	s	Weymouth	-	0.02	10	50	r

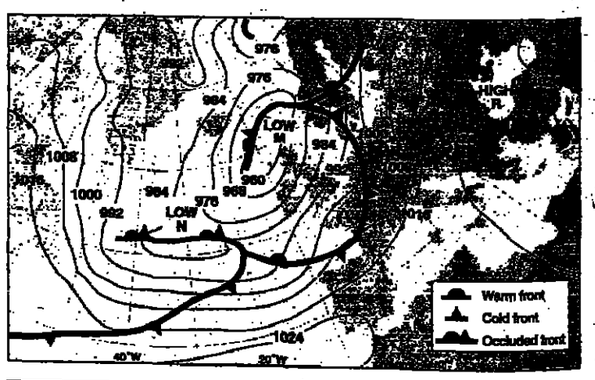
Ajaccio	15	59	s	Corfu	16	61	s	Majorca	15	59	f
Alicante	14	57	f	O'phagn	7	45	c	Malaga	16	61	s
Alex'dria	18	64	f	Dublin	8	46	s	Malta	18	64	s
Algiers	18	64	s	Dubrovnik	14	57	s	Melb'rne	20	68	c
Amst'dm	11	52	f	Faro	18	64	s	Mexico C	X	X	X
Athens	16	61	s	Florence	13	56	c	Miami	27	81	s
B Aires	32	90	s	Frankfurt	11	52	f	Milan	14	57	s
Bahrain	22	72	s	Funchal	18	64	s	Montreal	-6	23	fg
Bangkok	32	90	s	Geneva	12	54	s	Moscow	-2	28	s
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	17	63	f	Munich	10	50	s
Barcelona	11	52	f	Helsinki	2	36	d	N Delhi	23	73	s
Beirut	14	57	f	Hong K	19	66	s	N York	21	70	f
Belgrade	16	61	s	Innsbruck	13	55	s	Nairobi	30	86	s
Berlin	12	54	s	Istanbul	8	46	r	Naples	14	57	s
Bermuda	23	73	f	Jeddah	22	72	s	Nice	15	59	f
Biarritz	16	61	f	Jo'burg	30	86	s	Oslo	5	41	c
Borde'x	13	55	f	L Angeles	17	63	s	Paris	11	52	c
Brussels	11	52	f	L Palmas	25	77	f	Peking	8	46	s
Budapst	13	55	s	Le Touq't	12	54	f	Perth	22	72	s
Cairo	18	64	f	Lisbon	17	63	f	Prague	13	55	s
Cape Tn	X	X	X	Locarno	10	50	s	Reykjavik	-5	23	s
Ch'church	20	68		Luxembg	10	50	f	Rhodes	18	61	s
Chicago	-9	27	s	Luxor	19	66	s	Rio de J	30	86	f
Cologne	11	52	f	Madrid	15	59	s	Riyadh	24	75	s

Rome	16	61	c	Sydney	24	75	s	Valencia	14	57	c
S Fr'isco	11	52	s	Tangier	17	63	f	Vanc'ver	8	43	s
S Paulo	30	86	c	Tel Aviv	16	66	c	Venice	8	43	fg
Salzburg	15	59	s	Tenerife	23	73	s	Vienna	10	50	s
Santiago	31	88	s	Tokyo	8	46	s	Warsaw	11	52	f
Seoul	9	48	s	Toronto	-4	25	f	Wash'ton	17	63	f
Singapor	28	82	c	Tunis	20	68	s	Wellington	22	72	x
Stockh'lm	7	45	c	Valencia	14	57	c	Zurich	11	52	s
Strasb'rg	14	57	s							

X = not available



Changes to the chart from noon: high R will decline in situ; low M will head up the Norwegian coast and slowly fill; low N will push quickly NE towards northwest Scotland with pressure unchanged



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	02.58	7.1	15.17	7.1	Leith	03.45	5.3	16.05	6.4
Aberdeen	02.27	4.1	14.35	4.2	Liverpool	00.11	9.1	12.26	9.3
Avonmouth	08.20	13.0	20.39	13.0	Lowestoft	10.51	2.3	22.50	2.5
Belfast	-		12.11	3.5	Margate	01.00	4.6	13.24	4.5
Cardiff	08.06	12.0	20.25	12.0	Milford Haven	07.22	6.8	19.38	6.7
Devonport	08.48	5.5	19.05	5.3	Newquay	06.13	6.8	18.29	6.7
Dover	00.03	6.6	12.15	6.4	Oban	05.43	3.9	19.14	3.9
Dublin (N Wall)	00.26	3.8	12.45	4.0	Penzance	05.45	5.4	18.00	5.3
Falmouth	06.17	5.3	18.36	5.1	Portland	06.09	1.9	20.30	1.7
Greenock	01.54	3.1	13.42	3.4	Portsmouth	00.20	4.5	12.27	4.5
Harwich	00.52	3.8	13.10	3.8	Shoreham	00.11	6.1	12.20	6.0
Holyhead	11.30	5.5	23.47	5.4	Southampton	11.54	4.4	-	-
Hull (Albert D)	07.28	8.5	19.36	8.6	Swansea	07.29	9.3	19.45	9.1
Ilfracombe	07.06	9.0	19.24	8.9	Tees	04.48	5.1	16.57	5.3
King's Lynn	07.34	6.4	19.42	6.7	Walton-on-N	00.43	4.0	13.09	4.0

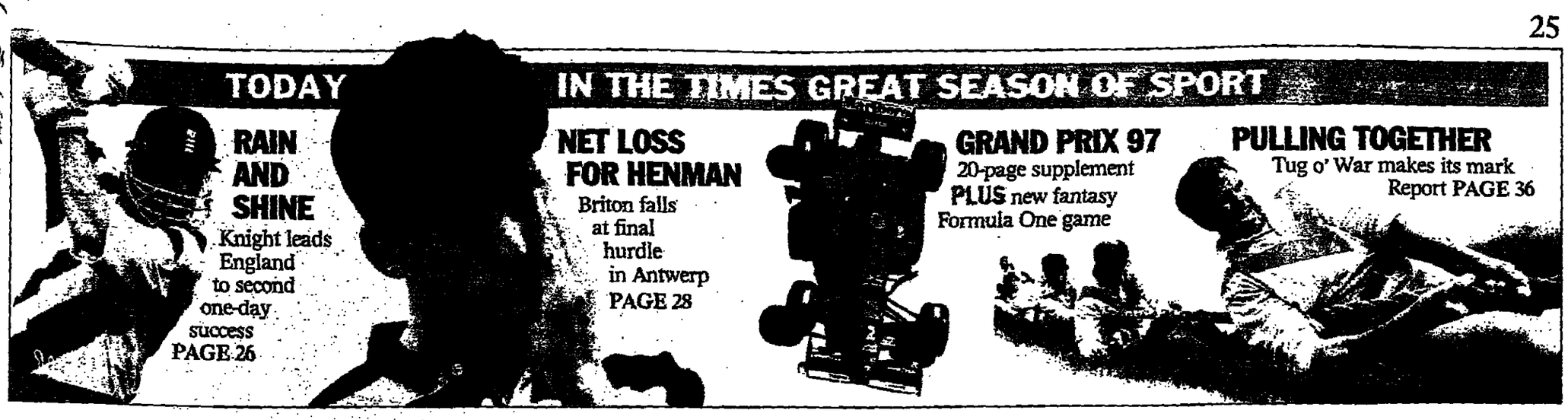
All times GMT. Heights in metres.

Sun rises: 6.57 am
Sun sets: 5.32 pm
Moon sets: 7.38 am
Moon rises: 7.54 pm

London 5.32 pm to 6.54 am
Bristol 5.42 pm to 7.04 am
Edinburgh 5.36 pm to 7.14 am
Manchester 6.37 pm to 7.06 am
Penzance 5.56 pm to 7.14 am

Last quarter March 2

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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY FEBRUARY 24 1997

WIMBLEDON CRUSH ARSENAL TITLE HOPES AT HIGHBURY



Bould watches helplessly as Jones, right, fires a venomous volley past Lukic in the Arsenal goal to give Wimbledon what proved to be a decisive lead at Highbury yesterday. Photographs: Marc Aspland

Vinnie: 'Veni, vidi, vici'

By Brian Glanville

STRANGE but true. Wimbledon, for ever pleading poverty, have far greater strength in depth than wealthy Arsenal. Which is one of the reasons why they won this windswept game at Highbury, surviving even the early loss of Oyvind Leonhardsen, their outstanding midfield player from Norway, his calf ripped open by an opponent's studs.

Arsenal have no Leonhardsen, and thereby hangs a tale, to which we shall subsequently return. As it was, Wimbledon won with the only goal of the game, volleyed home right-footed by an unmarked Vinnie Jones, midway through the first half.

"I thought it was a great finish," Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, said, "and I thought, my God, I'm never going to hear the end of it now. He does it week in, week out in training. I think this is his best season since he's been with us."

Jones himself was delighted, coming up after the game to announce that this had been his reply to a journalist who had ridiculed him in his column that morning. "I said the other day, you get more recognition for making four passes from you lot than making four tackles. So I thought, let's have a go." Which he emphatically did.

Jones' goal came from a corner quite gratuitously given away by Remy Garde, Arsenal's French defender. Defender? Well may you ask what the little man was doing in the back three, faced by such towering heavyweights as Marcus Gayle and Efan Ekoku, switched by Kinnear from the right flank into the middle, while Ardley returned on the wing.

But Keown was suspended, Adams was injured and, soon after half-time, Steve Bould, the other member of the usual trio, limped off. Why he was not withdrawn at the interval when so clearly in difficulties remains a mystery.

So there was Garde, signed from Strasbourg shortly before Arsène Wenger took over as the Arsenal manager. If Garde is anything at all, he is a midfield player. But, with Bould off the field, the Arsenal back three — it might have been more sensible to have switched to a back four — consisted of Garde and two other reserves, Marshall and Morrow. Those who fondly remember the old nearby Finsbury Park Empire speculated that, by the end, the trio might well consist of Wilson, Keppie and Betty.

Back to the goal. Kimble took the corner Bould headed away, but not far enough. Fear, deputising for Leonhardsen, mis-kicked. Ardley crossed and Jones, as we know, thunderously did the rest.

For obscure reasons, the Gunners, since the latter days of George Graham — when he delighted in snubbing Paul Davis — have abandoned their tradition of a general to run the midfield. First, there was Charlie Buchan. Then, most inventive of all, there was the marvellous little Scotsman, Alex James. After the war, we saw Jimmy Logie, Jimmy Bloomfield, George Eastham and Liam Brady. And now? A void.

To be fair, things might have been quite different had Ian Wright scored in the thirteenth minute. Bould hit a long ball through the middle, Wright dashed on to it, shot without ceremony, and the ball cannoned off a post.

Did this demoralise Wright? Was he subdued by all that controversy over his clashes with Peter Schmeichel? Wenger, busy last week defending the indefensible, suggested that Wright had not had enough help.

In the event, most of the danger to Wimbledon came from the Dutchman, Dennis Bergkamp, though two of Arsenal's best attempts came in the second half from their adventurous wing back, Nigel Worthington. Each time, he was frustrated by Sullivan.

Long, long ago, Arsenal had a defender such as Leslie Compton playing seven years in their reserves, while twice appearing in trials for England. Happy days. Yesterday, Wimbledon showed how much more provident they are by bringing on so coveted a striker as Dean Holdsworth just before the end.

"I've had so much confidence in the side," Kinnear said. "The squad system is working very well."

Wenger put Arsenal's defeat down chiefly to their exertions against Manchester United last Wednesday. "Maybe we are a little bit short in the squad," he said, "but the schedule of the Premiership is not right. To create a regular competition, you need to have everybody playing on the same day and not when it suits them. My players have given everything, and in the second half, we didn't have the physical freshness to score."

Stark contrast with Kinnear, who is only too glad to face such a plethora of fixtures, knowing that it is the consequence — or, as he idiosyncratically put it, "the victim" — of Wimbledon's success. This, he told us, was a far more benign kind of pressure than not being able to sleep at night, when the team is near the bottom of the table.

Whistling in the wind, Wenger said that all those injuries and suspensions constituted "a good chance for young players to play". Which begs the question of which young players. Though Arsenal were able to present Nicolas Anelka, the brilliant French teenager whom they have filched from under the nose of Paris Saint-Germain. He should, Wenger said, be ready in a couple of weeks.

"I didn't expect us to create as many chances as we did," Kinnear admitted, and their name was legion, for they were many.

Just before half-time, Robbie Earle's header gave Ardley a point-blank chance only for him to mis-cue. Five minutes into the second half, Earle's header was only just wide. Seventeen minutes from time, Earle powerfully won a tackle with Vieira and put Ardley through. Ekoku put his pass only just wide.

Four minutes later came, perhaps, Wimbledon's best move of the match. Gayle began it with a fine pass to Ekoku. Ekoku crossed, Ardley shot, Lukic blocked, Gayle turned up in the goalmouth to shoot again, but again the drive was blocked *in extremis*, this time by the resourceful Morrow. A dozen minutes from the end, Gayle had another chance, only to be blocked by Lukic.

Arsenal had their opportunities. In the first half, Sullivan blocked from Merson and saved a header by Dixon. In the second, early on, he dived to catch Bergkamp's long shot and later turned another drive round the post. There were also those two saves from Winterburn.

But there we are. Wimbledon so seldom lose at Highbury and, if Wenger is unsure what goes on after games in the tunnel, his team now have a dark one indeed from which to emerge.

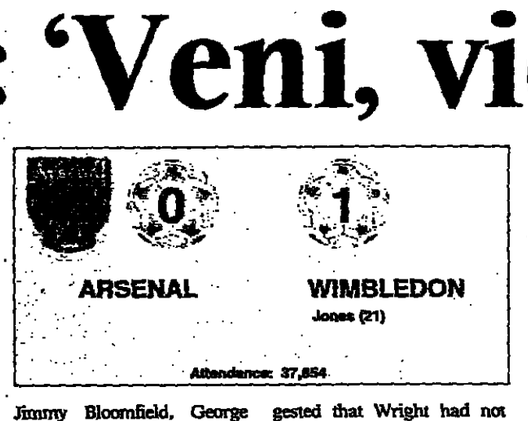
ARSENAL (3-5-2): J Lukic — S Bould (sub: S Morrow, 48min), R Garde (sub: P Shaw, 79), S Marshall — L Dixon, P Merson, R Parlour (sub: S Hughes, 46), P Vieira, N Winterburn — I Wright, D Bergkamp.

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, D Blackwell, C Perry, A Kimble — V Jones (sub: B McAllister, 57), O Leonhardsen (sub: P Fear, 14), R Earle, N Ardley — E Ekoku, M Gayle (sub: D Holdsworth, 88).

Referee: P Jones

	0	1
	ARSENAL	WIMBLEDON
		Jones (21)

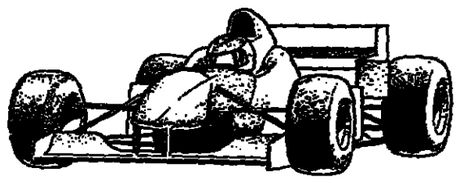
Attendance: 37,854



Jones and Gayle celebrate the Wimbledon winner

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	27	15	9	3	53	30	54
Liverpool	27	15	8	4	46	20	53
Newcastle	26	14	6	6	51	30	48
Arsenal	26	13	9	6	45	26	48
Aston Villa	27	12	7	8	34	26	43
Wimbledon	24	12	6	6	37	28	42

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هكذا من الاصل

Eurosport need doubles partner for Mercer



MATTHEW BOND

TV ACTION REPLAY

If this was Henmania, it was definitely the subdued version. The Antwerp crowd could barely raise a synchronised clap, poor David Mercer was all on his lonesome on Eurosport and the Belgian television producer was having trouble concentrating.

On Friday it was pretty girls wearing peak caps that distracted the cameras. "Not sure about the uniforms, but they're certain to get some attention," Mercer predicted accurately. They featured in every interval in the first set. On Saturday it was latecomers. There was no sneaking in at the back in Antwerp — smile, you're on pan-European television. Yesterday it was a toss-up between Marc Rosset's red tennis shoes ("apparently they remind him of the Swiss national flag," Mercer said) and the girls in the peaked caps again. It was amazing that we got to see any tennis at all.

But we did, and while the result did not go the right way in the final yesterday, it was still a weekend that showed satellite television almost at its best. Not with big blockbuster events, but simply by having the flexibility to show us live sport as it happens, whenever it happens. If Nick Knight wanted to thump the winning four at 4.55am then Sky would show it and, hopefully, there were a few others apart from me watching it.

Eurosport, however, seemed a bit slow to recognise the opportunity it had been blessed with when Tim Henman suddenly became the only seed to make it into the quarter-finals of the European Community championship. Not only did it have live and exclusive coverage of quarter-finals, semi-finals and final, all three Henman games were in weekend prime-time. The Paris-based channel has already learned what effect Henman's presence has on its ratings in Britain.

Mercer could have done with some support. It's not that he did badly. He was thoroughly researched, impressively objective and unbeatable on players' companions. "That's Lucy, Tim's girlfriend," Mercer told us, as the Belgian producer finally tore himself away from another close-up of Rosset's shoes. "It was her birthday on Friday."

We are accustomed, however, to having pairs of commentators for all sports these days and Mercer was badly in need of a second voice; somebody to talk technique and tactics with; somebody to give him, and us, a break. With more and more of Eurosport's commentators commendably reporting from site rather than from its Paris studios, finding enough competent people is an expensive problem for a channel providing commentary in an ever growing number of languages. That, however, is not our problem. There will be many times when the satellite channel will get away with having lone commentators. But, for the time being, Henman in the final of any tournament is not one of them.

Buoyed up (slightly) by Henman's less than convincing semi-final on Saturday afternoon, I determined to make an Antipodean night of it on Sky. After all, there is only a couple of weekends until the Australian Grand Prix. I needed the practice ... rather badly as it turned out.

Sky is absolutely wedded to commentary partnerships, so the evening began with Bob Willis and Ian Botham, which is not the most fun you will ever hear on television. After that it was the excellent Mark Nicholas and the equally impressive New Zealander, Ian Smith. Then it was Paul Allott and Botham ... and then, suddenly, it was 4.30am, England were 90-something for three and somehow needed less than 40 runs off ten overs. Very gently, Allott and Smith — presumably for the sake of insomniacs who happened to be joining them at that ungodly hour — explained about the rain. Suddenly, falling asleep didnot seem such a bad move.

I blame the lack of rousing rock music for my poor showing, for despite Nicholas promising us at the outset that this was "razzmatazz at its very best", I had forgotten that you hardly get to hear any of it on Sky. Once a wicket falls, it's one replay and straight into an ad break. Sweet dreams.

CRICKET: HUSSAIN AT THE HELM AS TOURING SIDE MAKE SHORT WORK OF RAIN-REDUCED TARGET

Knight sees England home and dry

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN AUCKLAND

AUCKLAND (New Zealand won toss): England beat New Zealand by six wickets



Knight, in punishing mood, crashes the ball through the off side during his match-winning innings of 84 not out. Photograph: Clive Mason / Allsport

ONLY a cricketing dinosaur could argue against the legitimate role of the modern one-day game. At its best, it can excite, entertain and attract previously untapped audiences; but, on days like this, it can insult the intelligence and defy serious analysis.

Auckland, a city that last month treated a gripping Test match with indifference, had been working itself into a lather about this international. The cricket was a mere accessory to the rock'n'roll and the partying, which was just as well as it turned out, because a combination of untimely rain and unfair regulations reduced the match to a cheap, irrelevant imitation.

Rain began to fall on an Eden Park crowd of 25,000 with England, needing 254 to win, 47 without loss after six overs. After several abortive attempts to restart, the umpires were ready to abandon the day on the advice of the groundsman, a decision that would have involved an entirely new match being started, doubtless before a virtually empty ground, this morning.

That fate, at least, was averted as Nasser Hussain, captaining England for the first time while Michael Atherton rested his recurrently stiff back, employed skills of oratory to persuade the umpires that there was still time to complete what the regulations deemed to be a proper match. "There was a big crowd here and you have to say the umpires did the right thing," Hussain said, "but it was difficult for them."

England were thus set to score 132 from 26 overs, or a further 85 from the remaining 20. The revision itself was enough to eliminate New Zealand's prospects, but they were further handicapped by the stipulation that they must still retain nine men, and two close catchers, in the fielding circle for a full 15 overs. Once they were bowled, of course, the game was as good as over.

Despite making some needless and counterproductive changes to the batting order, England achieved their modest mission in a canter and there were still 6.3 overs to bowl when Nick Knight struck three consecutive fours as a climax to an unbeaten 84 from 69 balls.

It was a fourth consecutive international win for England, who now lead 2-0 in the one-day series with three games to play. The buoyant players can simply deposit the experience in their growing bank of confidence, but, for everyone else, from those in opposition to those who paid to watch, it was profoundly unsatisfying, an exposition of just how farcical a one-day game can be once it is shortened.

New Zealand are worthy of only limited sympathy, for Lee Germon, now a seriously beleaguered captain, made the extraordinary decision to bat first. He knew that rain was confidently forecast for later in the day and that, under the regulations in use, any reduction would be to the benefit of the side batting second. He chose to ignore it.

Hussain could hardly believe his luck. Having been thrust into the captaincy at *half-an-hour's notice, he was* now being donated a potentially decisive advantage. He wasted no time telling television interviewers that he would have bowled first anyway, then had temporary cause to regret it as his seam bowlers allowed New Zealand to set off at six runs an over.

In sapping humidity, the white ball swung lavishly and England failed to control it, contributing 16 wides. Initially their fielding was also slapdash, yet they stayed in the game by taking wickets regularly as the New Zealanders' inability to forge significant partnerships continued to inhibit them. On a sound pitch, with two short boundaries and a fast outfield, the best stand of the innings was only 52 and the situation was never out of England's control.

Having belatedly and erroneously omitted Philip Tufnell, it was Robert Croft, the remaining spin bowler, who applied brakes to the innings. Ronnie Irani, almost playing by memory, also bowled a commendably tight line until developing cramp, and, although Chris Cairns played assertively for 79, including three sixes, his run out with four overs remaining was somehow typical of New Zealand's failure to finish whatever they started.

Germon said that he was happy with 253 but not, I imagine, as happy as England. Knight and Alec Stewart launched the reply as if they thought 30 overs should be sufficient. Simon Doull's opening over comprised six long hops and brought 15 runs and it was New Zealand who were keenest to leave the field when the weather turned. The public address thundered out Supertramp's *It's Raining Again*, Bruce Hornsby's *Mandolin Rain* and endless other weather-orientated songs. The disc jockey had plainly expected the worst, even if Germon had not. He tried to retrieve the situation by demonstrating to the umpires just how wet the outfield had come, but even the silver-tongued contest was won by Hussain.

By the time that England lost a wicket, Stewart curiously adjudged leg before to a ball plainly missing leg stump, they had reached 86 in the eleventh over. The promotion of Cork and Irani, theoretically in case of more rain, was misguided and, soon, England had contrived to lose four wickets for 14.

It was, however, always beyond New Zealand, for Knight was playing with a conviction that he last showed during his valiant 96 not out in the Bulawayo Test match two months ago. Even the bizarre intervention of one more drinks break, after only ten overs and with just 23 runs needed, could not summon the weather to save them.

Germon, looking as emotional as a man in fear of his position has a right to do, was justifiably critical of the regulations that contributed to the result. "The law is an ass," he said. Hussain summed it up from England's viewpoint: "When you're on a bit of a run, things like this go your way."

The most apt commentary on it all, though, was provided by the DJ, who clearly has a sense of the ridiculous judging by his choice of a song to play the teams off.

"*Grooving on a Sunday afternoon.*" came over the speakers. "*Grooving, couldn't get away too soon.*"

FULL SCOREBOARD FROM AUCKLAND

New Zealand won toss

NEW ZEALAND

B A Young c Stewart b Irani 46
(91min, 59 balls, 6 fours)
N J Astle c Stewart b Mullally 4
(18min, 14 balls)
A C Parore run out (Irani) 2
(17min, 7 balls)
S P Fleming c Caddick b Gough 42
(91min, 74 balls, 4 fours)
C L Cairns run out (Cork) 79
(106min, 74 balls, 3 sixes, 5 fours)
C Z Harris c sub (C White) b Caddick 14
(51min, 39 balls, 1 four)
*†L K Germon b Caddick 1
(6min, 6 balls)
D N Patel run out (Caddick/Stewart) 24
(24min, 21 balls, 1 six, 1 four)
G R Larsen not out 12
(13min, 9 balls, 1 four)
Extras (lb 9, w 16, nb 4) 29
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs, 212min) ..253

S B Doull and H T Davis did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-24 (Young 13), 2-44 (Young 28), 3-96 (Fleming 25), 4-138 (Cairns 21), 5-189 (Cairns 53), 6-202 (Cairns 65), 7-219 (Patel 3), 8-253 (Larsen 12)

BOWLING: Cork 10-0-51-0 (nb 2, w 1; 1 six, 3 fours), 4-0-18-0, 6-0-33-0); Mullally 7-0-36-1 (w 6; 1 six, 3 fours; 2-0-18-1, 5-0-18-0); Caddick 6-0-33-2 (w 5, 1 six, 2 fours), 4-0-17-0, 2-0-16-2); Gough 10-0-65-1 (nb 2, w 3; 8 fours, 3-0-17-0, 4-0-22-1, 3-0-26-0); Irani 7-0-28-1 (1 six, 1 four, 5-0-13-1, 2-0-13-0). Croft 10-1-33-0 (w 1; 1 four, one spell)

Score after 15 overs: 81 for 2.

ENGLAND

N V Knight not out 84
(93min, 69 balls, 12 fours)
†A J Stewart lbw b Davis 30
(47min, 26 balls, 4 fours)
D G Cork c Young b Larsen 4
(6min, 4 balls, 1 four)
R C Irani c Astle b Doull 0
(5min, 3 balls)
G P Thorpe c and b Doull 4
(7min, 3 balls, 1 four)
*N Hussain not out 9
(24min, 11 balls)
Extras (w 3) 3
Total (4 wkts, 19.3 overs, 93 min) 134

J P Crawley, R D B Croft, D Gough, A R Caddick and A D Mullally did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-86 (Knight) 53), 2-91 (Knight 54), 3-92 (Knight 55), 4-100 (Knight 59).

BOWLING: Davis 6-1-39-1 (w 2, 7 fours; one spell), Doull 5-0-39-2 (w 1; 6 fours; 3-0-29-0, 2-0-10-2); Larsen 5-0-31-1 (2 fours; one spell), Harris 2-0-8-0 (one spell); Astle 1.3-0-17-0 (3 fours; one spell)

Score after 15 overs: 105 for 4

SCORING NOTES: Rain stopped play at 3.08pm. Restarted at 4.51pm with England's target revised to 132 runs off 26 overs

England won by six wickets (on revised target)

Match award: N V Knight.
Umpires: B F Bowden and D B Cowie. Third umpire: C E King. Referee: P J P Burge (Australia).
International series: First (Christchurch): England won by four wickets. Third (Napier), February 26 (floodlit). Fourth (Auckland): March 1. Fifth (Wellington): March 4.

☐ *Compiled by Bill Frindall*

SPORT IN BRIEF

Sorenstam savours flying start to season

ANNIKA SORENSTAM won the Hawaiian Women's Open by one stroke from Meg Mallon to record her second victory in three tournaments on the United States Ladies Professional Golf Association Tour this year. Sorenstam, of Sweden, had a round of 73, one over par, to record a final score of 206 at the Kapolei course.

Sorenstam's start to the season is the best on the Tour since Beth Daniel won twice in the first five events of 1990. "I'm amazed," Sorenstam said, after surviving a bogey on the 18th hole. "I have the right frame of mind. I hope this momentum continues." Mallon had a final round of 70, but her challenge faded with bogeys on the 17th and 18th holes. The next US LPGA event is the Australian Masters next week.

Maier makes his mark

SKIING: Hermann Maier, of Austria, captured his first World Cup victory when he won the super giant slalom in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, yesterday. Maier, who missed the recent world championships with a broken arm, beat Kristian Ghedina, of Italy, by more than half a second in a time of 1min 21.64sec, while two Norwegians, Atle Skaardal and Lasse Kjus, shared third place after completing their runs down the 2,070-metre Kandahar course in identical times of 1min 22.25sec. Luc Alphand, of France, who won the downhill race on Saturday, finished sixth and extended his overall World Cup lead.

Christie wins on grass



ATHLETICS: Linford Christie, right, competing on grass for the first time since his schooldays, won a A$120,000 race over 120 metres in Botany Bay, Sydney, yesterday. Christie, the former Olympic 100 metres champion, picked up A$21,000 (about £10,000), winning in 12.03sec from Tony Marshall, of Australia. Darren Campbell, of Great Britain, finished third.

Price savours victory

GOLF: Nick Price, of Zimbabwe, promised himself a holiday after beating David Frost in a play-off in the Alfred Dunhill PGA in South Africa. Price had a nervous wait after a final round of 66 for 269 as Frost fought back to level matters with a birdie on the 18th — and force Price back on to the Houghton Golf Club course. Price made par at the first play-off hole to beat Frost after the latter missed his putt.

Whitakers lead way

EQUESTRIANISM: John Whitaker, on Virtual Village Granusch, just pipped Michael, his brother, for first place as he led a remarkable clean sweep by British riders in the Volvo World Cup qualifier in Bologna, Italy, yesterday. Geoff Billington was third and Robert Smith fourth in a 12-horse jump off. It was the second win in the qualifying series this season for John Whitaker.

England lose record

RUGBY UNION: The England women's team suffered their first defeat since 1991 when France sneaked a 17-15 victory — their first over England — at Franklins Gardens yesterday. Nathalie Amiel scored the match-winning try in the 73rd minute to crown a memorable individual performance that included creating a try for Bertrank, the No 8.

Muggeridge thrown out



BADMINTON: Jo Muggeridge, right, England's most successful women's singles player for much of the past four years, has been thrown out of the national training squad after a row with Steve Baddeley, the England manager. The disagreement, which ended with Muggeridge tipping a can of drink over Baddeley's head, was over Muggeridge's level of fitness.

French are mustard

SAILING: A tight finish is likely between Herve Laurent and Marc Thiercelin, the Frenchmen, in the Vendée Globe non-stop single-handed race round the world as they challenge for second place behind Christophe Auguin, who won on *Géodis*. Yesterday Laurent had only 680 miles to go to the finish at Les Sables d'Olonne and Thiercelin had 710 still to complete.

South spurred by Stearn

LACROSSE: South became the women's territorial champions in convincing style when they won all their five games over two weekends, finishing with a 16-1 victory against British Universities, a 7-6 success over East and a 15-0 defeat of Midlands at Weybridge yesterday. Their only possible threat was East, who went 2-0 up early in the game, but Di Stearn settled the match with the winning goal.

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SNOOKER: SCOT DISMISSES DRAGO TO KEEP WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN HIS SIGHTS

Hendry's timing proves impeccable

BY PHIL YATES

STEPHEN HENDRY, the winner of the International Open title in Aberdeen on Saturday, flies to Malta today for the European Open unconcerned that recent success, allied with a hectic schedule, could lead to burn-out before the world championship.

Hendry again underlined his position as the dominant force in the sport by trouncing Tony Drago 9-1 to win the first world-ranking tournament staged in Scotland.

It was his 28th triumph in a ranking event, equalling the record set by Steve Davis

The £60,000 first prize swelled Hendry's prize-money, during a season in which he has already lifted trophies at the United Kingdom championship, Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge and Regal Welsh Open, to £295,330.

Hendry's only defeat at the Crucible Theatre in the 1990s came six years ago when, after a similarly taxing campaign, he arrived at the game's premier competition decidedly jaded and was beaten 13-11 by Steve James in the quarter-finals.

"I've become a lot more experienced since then and

"Anyway, whenever you go to Sheffield, you get a real buzz simply from being there."

Hendry, who meets Jamie Burnett, his Scottish compatriot, in the first round of the European Open at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta, tomorrow evening, has lost only one of his past 21 matches in ranking tournaments. As a consequence, he has established a healthy buffer zone between himself and the chasing pack at the head of the provisional world rankings.

Ruthlessly exploiting Drago's susceptibility to unforced errors, Hendry was the swiftest victory recorded in a best-of-17 frame final.

A break of 90 from Hendry in the first frame, after Drago had wasted two clear-cut openings, set the pattern and he added further contributions of 128, 94, 78, 55, 48, 42 twice and 40.

Even so, with the world's elite 16 players joined by 16 qualifiers for the final phase of the European Open, the first of successive overseas events followed almost immediately by the Thailand Open, Hendry will be forced to maintain the same high standard for his purple patch to

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	40	180	good	heavy	fair	fine	1	15/2
(Spring-like conditions: still mostly good)								
AUSTRIA								
Obergurgl	40	160	good	heavy	good	sun	2	21/2
(Superb skiing conditions everywhere)								
Sölden	25	60	good	heavy	fair	sun	5	19/2
(Warm sunshine, some slush on south-facing runs)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	115	260	good	heavy	good	sun	5	18/2
(Brilliant sunshine affecting some low pistes)								
Val d'Isère	115	210	good	varied	good	fine	4	20/2
(Good skiing in warm sunshine)								
ITALY								
Livigno	90	200	good	varied	good	sun	-3	20/2
(Good skiing on most pistes; some icy spots low down)								
NORWAY								
Geilo	60	70	fair	varied	slushy	fair	2	21/2
(Pistes holding up but surfaces slightly slushy)								
SWITZERLAND								
Wengen	10	100	good	varied	slushy	sun	5	19/2

TENNIS: BIG-HITTING ROSSET TEACHES BRITON UNCOMFORTABLE LESSON IN COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Henman fails to make final breakthrough

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE IN ANTWERP

THE faces of John McEnroe, Ivan Lendl and Pete Sampras looked down from the walls of the Sports Palace in Antwerp, beckoning Tim Henman into an exclusive band of past champions. Four Wimbledon champions — and two finalists — have won this tournament down the years, but Henman will have to wait his turn.

Henman was beaten 6-2, 7-5, 6-4 by Marc Rosset, the outsize Swiss, and left Antwerp for his next stop, in Milan, with a silver tray instead of a gold-studded racket and more than a few problems to sort out in his game. The positive point, as Henman said, was that he reached the final of the European Community championship and earned a handy $85,600 (about £53,500) without playing at his best. Henman will move up in the world rankings close to his career best of No 14, but much of the form that took him to his first ATP Tour title, in Sydney, and his first final, in Doha, has temporarily deserted him.

"I've been mentally and physically strong and I've kept battling," he said. However, against a player of Rosset's power and experience, simple scrapping proved inadequate. No part of his game worked to order. His first service was erratic, his ground strokes off both wings were woefully insecure and his tactics questionable.

Instead of manoeuvring his 6ft 7in opponent around the court, he lost patience too often and tried to outhit him from the back of the court. On the one occasion that he worked his way into the net, early in the second set, he won solid approval from David Felgate, his coach. However, in the face of some forceful serving, he could not capitalise on the moment.

To be fair to Henman, who is playing only his third Tour — and first best-of-five set — final, Rosset is an awkward customer at the best of times. Nobody, least of all, you



Rosset: powerful

suspect, Rosset himself, knows quite what is coming next. On his bad days, Rosset, the former Olympic champion can be awful; at his best, he is a match for anyone. This was one of his better days, particularly on his first service.

Whenever Henman had a glimmer of an opportunity, Rosset rummaged through his service locker and produced a winner. He served 16 aces, the last to win the match after 2hr 09min, many of the earlier ones to ward off break points. Henman managed to convert only one of his seven break points, and that was deep into the third set when the match was all but lost. Though ranked four places above Rosset, Henman was not the first to find out that Rosset is not easily quantified.

"I looked at his service statistics and he did not seem to be making many first serves," Henman said, "but, on almost every big point, he came up with something and they come down from all sorts of heights. It makes life very difficult." Henman's one and only break came after an hour and 50 minutes, when he was two sets and a break down.

Not that Henman helped himself. Long before the end, Jane, his mother, watching from the side of the court, must have wished that she had stayed at home to watch her husband play his squash match. So out of sorts was her son that his normally placid exterior evaporated into an angry slam of the racket in the fifth game of the second set that presumably did not merit a warning only because Lars Graff, the umpire, was as surprised as the rest of the crowd by such a show of temper. I swear that McEnroe smiled down in delight from his poster.

From the moment that Henman dropped his service, for the first of five times in the match, in the third game, he seemed unusually ill at ease. Rosset, at 30, eight years older, also admitted to nerves, but controlled them better. Henman lost the first set in 29 minutes and, when he had three chances to break Rosset early in the second set, he was unable to control any of the three explosive first services. The decisive break came in the eleventh game when, from 40-15, he netted a routine backhand, overhit a volley, double-faulted and then, on a point that he for once dominated, casually pulled a forehand wide. After an hour and a half, Rosset served out to lead by two sets.

Two more double faults early in the third set effectively ended any lingering chance of a comeback and, though Henman did finally break back to level at 3-3 in the third set, Rosset broke for the final time with a backhand pass down the line in the next game. A first-service mark of 39 per cent told its own baleful story for Henman.

"There are not many plus points I can take from today," Henman said. "I might seem fairly philosophical about it all on the outside, but those close to me will see a different reaction. This hurts more than my defeat [by Jim Courier] in Doha, because I played a good match there."

Kindly, Rosset put his opponent's display down to inexperience. "He has not played many best-of-five set matches and it is small details like that which can make the difference," he said. Henman might, in time, take comfort from the knowledge that McEnroe also experienced defeat on his first visit to Antwerp, 15 years ago.



MICHAEL SPINGLER

Henman drives a fierce backhand from the baseline during his defeat yesterday

Davenport hits back

LINDSAY DAVENPORT, the Olympic champion, of the United States, recovered to beat Kimberly Po, her compatriot and the No 3 seed, 1-6, 6-2, 6-3, in Oklahoma City on Saturday to secure a place in the final of the Women's Tennis Association IGA Classic.

Davenport, who is the No 1 seed, will now face yet another United States player in Lisa Raymond, who overcame the unseeded Francis Lubiani, of Italy, 6-1, 6-0, in 41 minutes in the other semi-final.

Davenport, seeking her eighth career singles crown, avenged a loss to Po in the fourth round of the Australian Open championships last month. Po was also picked for the Fed Cup team when Davenport, who played so well in the competition for three years, was not.

"Getting to the final is great," Davenport said. "Winning this match feels good because I tried really hard and did not get down on myself. For sure I felt like I escaped with a victory. I definitely got a little lucky."

ATHLETICS

Mayock's trial tribulations tarnish record

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

FIVE British records fell yesterday and, deserving though the athletes were of applause, none is likely to win an individual medal at the world indoor championships in Paris next month without improving further. In the case of John Mayock, who set new figures for 3,000 metres, he is not even sure of a ticket for the team plane, let alone a medal.

However, Mayock's omission, should that prove the unlikely scenario, will be a minor controversy by comparison with one involving Ashia Hansen. She was only two centimetres away from providing Britain with a sixth national record yesterday but Malcolm Arnold, the head coach, was adamant that she would not be selected for Paris because she had not competed in the trials.

The Great Britain selectors announce their team today, having met last night after a highly successful climax to the Ricoh indoor grand prix in Birmingham. Spectators enjoyed the new made-for-television presentation, with flashing lights, music and game show-style introductions. Oh, yes, athletes as well.

In between the strains of Tina Turner, the Stones and others, the sport lived up to the prediction of Ian Stewart, the British Athletic Federation head of events, that this would be at least the equal of any previous indoor meeting in Britain. It may have lacked the one big memorable moment, but quality was in abundance.

Ato Boldon, from Trinidad, the Olympic 100 and 200 metres bronze medal-winner, was the athlete of the meeting. He won the 60 and 200 metres, in 6.49 seconds and 20.35, then said he intended to "throw a monkey-wrench in the works" of the fastest-man-in-the-world race between Michael Johnson and Donovan Bailey next May by breaking the 100 metres world record in April.

The standard was such that, for much of the afternoon, there was no sign of a British winner in an international event, although there were the records: Donna Fraser, winning a domestic 200 metres in 20.96sec; Mayock, fourth in the 3,000 metres in 7min 43.31sec; Debbie Marti, second in the high jump with 1.95 metres; Janine Whitlock, third in the pole vault with 3.90 metres; Phylis Smith, second in the 400 metres in 51.69sec, shaving 0.01sec off Sally Gunnell's record.

Gunnell, though fourth, confirmed she would compete in Paris, mainly because Britain has a strong 4 x 400 metres relay team, especially in view of the form of Fraser and Smith. Fraser, who clipped 0.04sec off Katharine Merry's British record, has hitherto been regarded as a 400 metres athlete.

British victories came with a rush in the closing events.



Boldon: sprint double

from Jamie Baulch in the 400 metres, in 45.74sec, Steve Smith in the high jump, with 2.34 metres, and Hansen, with 14.57 metres. Baulch is the one outstanding hope of an individual gold medal in Paris, with Smith the next best bet. Other than these two, only Hansen carries the gold standard.

Arnold, though, was adamant that athletes who missed the trials should be omitted, unless they had been ill, informed the federation and supplied a doctor's note. Hansen had not, Mayock had.

However, Mayock's selection is not that simple. Ian Gillespie broke Stewart's 25-year Scottish record, with 7:49.86, but faces exclusion in favour of Mayock. The Yorkshireman said he sent a doctor's certificate to David Cropper, the chairman of selectors, and Cropper yesterday acknowledged receipt of it.

Mike Down, Gillespie's coach, is mystified. "I find it hard to believe that the chairman of selectors, chief national coach and promotions officer had no awareness of the doctor's note on the day of the trials," Down said.

GOLF: WOOLNOUGH CONQUERS HIGH WIND AND A LEGEND TO REACH THE SEMI-FINALS OF PUTTER

Dexter has no complaints about the 'boss'

BY JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THE wind continued to roar bearing both larksong and the insistent throbbing of the sea to parts of the Rye Golf Club, but, for Ted Dexter, the oldest man in the quarter-finals, the President's Putter is over. Dexter was beaten by Andy Woolnough 2 and 1 in an absorbing match in which the 35 years between them made little or no difference.

There were no complaints from the older man about the result. "He had a couple of three-putt errors that let me in, but there was never much doubt who was the boss," Dexter said. Woolnough, the winner of this event in 1995, had had some misgivings about facing Dexter, who is 61. "I knew he was a steady player and very consistent, so I was pleased to hole some putts at the start," he said.

Woolnough, 26, seemed to have matters under control when he led by three holes at the turn, deftly getting down in two from the left of the 9th green. Then however, a slack drive on the 10th, a nervous-looking miss on the 11th and three more putts on the 13th allowed Dexter to draw level.

Down the years, Dexter's ball striking has been a byword among the members of the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society, rather like his cars. It was, however, the way that Woolnough struck his second shot to the 12th with a driver, his three-iron to the

Scores 37

13th, his tee shot with a four-iron to the 14th, his three-iron second shot to the 15th and the stroke played with a driver from the 17th tee to within ten feet of the flag that caught the eye. These were the strokes of a man who is good enough to try for a living as a professional even if he has not yet made it and even if he is probably a little too short off the tee to do so.

John Nash faced a four-foot putt on the 15th to go to one up against Charlie Rotheroe, the champion. Nash missed that, but chipped wonderfully from the 17th tee to save the 16th. He appeared to have taken the initiative on the 17th, when his tee shot struggled to the edge of the green while Rotheroe's ran into a bunker.

Within the space of the next two strokes, this match altered completely. First, Nash's second shot ended well short of the hole. Then, Rotheroe got out to six feet and, after Nash had missed for a three, holed his putt to go one up. A ten-foot putt on the 18th gave him victory by two holes and the reward of a match against Woolnough this morning.

In the bottom half, Richard Sanders, having escaped from three down with four to play to win on the last against William Dugdale in the morning, was unable to reproduce such an escape after lunch. He lost to Jamie Warman. Simon Ellis, the captain of the Tonbridge Halford Hewitt team, beat Mark Benka.

BASKETBALL

Bullets shoot to summit

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

FOR a team that seems to spend half its week on the treatment table, Birmingham Bullets are not doing too badly. Play-off champions last spring, the Bullets took over as outright leaders of the Budweiser League for the first time this season by playing through the pain for a 110-96 victory away to Worthing Bears on Saturday.

The main problem for Nick Nurse, the club's conscientious coach, is not so much rival teams but the fitness of his own. "We can do it so long as we stay healthy," Nurse said, knowing that his players are at present anything but fully fit.

Tony Dorsey, the league's leading scorer, contributed another 34 points, but he has, according to Harry Wrublewski, the Birmingham chairman, "a knee that needs to be operated on and an ankle, looking like a football, that badly needs to be looked at".

Fabulous Flournoy has been down with flu and Scott Wilke suffering from a temperature of 103F. "That's the spirit Nick brings out in people," Wrublewski said. "No one wants to lie down and miss games."

Billy Ross became a further casualty when he was poked in the eye before the Bullets could secure their tenth successive win.

It was while Ross, the high-scoring guard, was recovering that the Bears assembled a 13-0 burst, reducing arrears of 70-56 to a single point. Ross duly returned, his eyesight clearly none too impaired, to score three more three-pointers in the final quarter, taking him to eight in all and a tally of 30 points, three more than Nigel Lloyd.

The main threats to Bullets had come from Cleave Lewis and James Hamilton, the scorers of 24 points apiece for the Bears, who could not quite accomplish the kind of shock results that were achieved by Leicester Riders and Crystal Palace.

Beaten in all five previous games by Chester Jets, Leicester won 105-87 to virtually end their title hopes. Leon McGee, who finished with 34 points, led the way with three early three-pointers among the nine that Leicester managed from 11 attempts inside the first 15 minutes.

Leicester's win and Derby Storm's 105-95 home defeat by Palace meant that Derby are favourites to miss out on the eighth qualifying place for the play-offs.

HOCKEY: NATIONAL LEAGUE SURPRISE PACKAGE CANTERBURY BOW OUT OF HA CUP

Gritty Chelmsford upset the odds

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

CANTERBURY, the surprise package of the National League, made an unexpected exit from the fifth round of the Hockey Association Cup yesterday with a 2-1 defeat at Chelmsford, one of the leading teams in the Adnams East League.

Canterbury made a promising start with a goal in the eighth minute by Hollingworth; but Chelmsford hit back a minute before half-time with an equaliser by Thorogood, and then went ahead in the 49th minute when Hawkins converted a short corner.

Chelmsford's defence was put under pressure by Canterbury, who forced 15 short corners, all of which came to nothing as the home side held on to their advantage with great determination.

Old Loughtonians battled to a 2-1 home win over injury-hit Hounslow. A facial injury suffered by Nurse, Hounslow's short corner specialist, then added to their problems. Old Loughtonians led 2-0 at half-time through goals by Bloor and Halls from short corners. Another short corner goal by Bloor early in the second half was disallowed for a foot infringement, after which Hounslow fought back and they eventually reduced the deficit seven minutes from time when Owen Jones converted a penalty stroke.

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Southgate surprisingly lost 3-2 to Surbiton, for whom Mark Owen scored the winning goal in extra time after the teams shared four goals in normal time. Elsewhere there were comfortable victories for Cannock, Teddington and Guildford, but St Albans were pushed hard by Hampstead and Westminster, scoring their second and third goals in a 3-2 win when the opposition were down to nine men.

After Saturday's matches in the National League, the top of the Premier Division remained unaltered with the top four teams, Teddington, Cannock, Reading and East Grinstead, all winning.

BOWLS

Cumbrian recovery halts Kent

ON ONE of the busiest weekends on the bowling calendar, Cumbria staged a remarkable comeback against Kent, who held a 25-shot lead after ten ends, to reach the final of the Liberty Trophy (David Rhys Jones writes). In the final they will meet Nottingham, at Melton Mowbray, on April 13.

In Belfast, Ireland won the Waterford Crystal Trophy and Llanelli lifted the Greengauge Welsh inter-club title at Cynon Valley. Yesterday Teignbridge and North Walsham were the first clubs through to the semi-finals of the national mixed inter-club championship, with victories over Dolphin and Handy Cross, respectively.

Llanelli's victory over a clutch of ambitious crown green bowlers from the Prestatyn-based Firth club gave them the Welsh club title for the second time in three years.

In Scotland, Prestwick retained their CIS Insurance Seniors Scottish League title when they hit back to beat Midlothian 62-56 at Paisley.

NETBALL

England aim is world No 1

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

FIFTY leading England netball coaches, players and administrators spent the weekend fine-tuning a world-class performance plan, designed to lift England from its present world No 4 ranking to No 1 by 2003.

Fiona Murtagh, the England captain, Kendra Slawinski, a former captain, Liz Broomhead, the England coach, and Liz Nicholl, the All England Netball Association chief executive, were joined by a sprinkling of counterparts from other sports at this quasi-brains trust in London. Netball administrators have already presented the blueprint to the Sports Council in an application for future National Lottery revenue funding.

England youth coach Rachel Folley said the conference was a welcome forum in which to examine future competitive opportunities for juniors. Folley said there was a lack of serious competition for the under-16 squad, a point highlighted by victories against Wales (56-27) and the Republic of Ireland (44-6) in a tournament this month.

Those three nations regularly play each other at youth level, leaving England youngsters unstretched and relatively untested at the end of each season, according to Folley.

"England were confident throughout the triangular tournament," she said. "We all know that the home countries lack the resources to develop their game. However, for our future England senior players, the lack of tough competition severely limits the sort of experience that is required."

Touring the world's top three nations, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand, has largely been out of the question for junior England squads because of the costs involved, but the conference explored ways of overcoming this.

The AENA also hopes newly formed netball area performance centres would be incorporated in a British academy of sport, should it get off the ground.

It is anticipated that each England player may be eligible for £28,000 a year through lottery funding on the basis that the team is fourth in the world and, therefore, "world class". The conference proposed that leading players be counselled in areas including time management and media relations.

Slough are denied at home and abroad

BY ALEX RAMSAY

SLOUGH'S ambition to add a European indoor gold medal to their collection of trophies came to nothing yesterday when they were beaten in the semi-finals of the European indoor clubs' championship in France.

They only edged into the semi-finals on goal difference before falling to Russelsheimer, the eventual champions. The Germans proved too strong as they recorded a 6-4 victory.

The defeat put Slough into the bronze medal play-offs but, in a tense struggle, they were forced to give second best to Club de Campo, of Spain, who won 5-4, leaving the English club with nothing to show from a disappointing weekend. In the B Division, Edinburgh Ladies finished on a high by taking the title at Brescia in Italy.

Ipswich, meanwhile, took full advantage of Slough's absence, to race to the top of the National Outdoor League table. When the league went into its winter recess at the start of December, Ipswich were in second place in the premier division, and struggling to catch Slough, who boasted a vastly superior goal difference. But, after beating Hightown 6-1 on Saturday, Ipswich are now in pole position.

It took a Hightown goal, courtesy of Yana Williams, to kick Ipswich into top gear and from there they never looked back. At half-time, they were 3-1 ahead, thanks to a penalty corner from Kirsten Spencer, a penalty stroke from Sandie Lister and an individual effort from Leisa King. Tracy Fry, Sarah Bamfield and Vicky Sandall added the other goals.

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FOOTBALL: ANFIELD PREMIERSHIP PRETENSIONS DENTED BY BLACKBURN'S DETERMINED DEFENCE

Liverpool's mastery counts for nought

Liverpool 0
Blackburn Rovers 0

BY PETER BALL

IF LIVERPOOL fail to win the FA Carling Premiership, Blackburn Rovers will figure prominently in the post-mortem examination. In November Blackburn marked the start of their revival under Tony Parkes with a comprehensive victory at Ewood Park; on Saturday, at the end of another eventful week in east Lancashire, they hung on staunchly to secure a draw at Anfield.

If anything, the game on Saturday might prove the more significant and not just because it prevented Liverpool from overtaking Manchester United. "Gary Flitcroft [the Blackburn midfield player] said to me 'You could be 6-0 up'," Jamie Redknapp said afterwards, and Flitcroft's testimony revealed the extent of Liverpool's domination, grittily as Hendry and his cohorts resisted.

Full results and league tables ....Page 30

There, though, is the rub. It is a football cliché that championship winners get results when not playing well. On Saturday Liverpool played excellently and still did not win. They have now dropped 15 points at home.

The two points lost on Saturday were not just down to heroics in the Blackburn defence, where Hendry breathed defiance. Berg was calm and steady and, in front of them, McKinlay made as many tackles and interceptions in one game as David Batty does in a month. "Hendry and Berg are an awesome pairing," Tim Flowers, the goalkeeper, said.



Blackburn's resolve is evident as Collymore attempts to break through for Liverpool at Anfield. Photograph: Clive Brunskill / Allsport

For all that, Liverpool created a hatful of chances. In the first half Flowers had a miserable time in the swirling wind, misjudging several crosses. He was unlucky with one, which brought him a booking for inadvertently handling outside the penalty area — a harsh decision by Martin Bodenham, the referee who saw no evil in Ian Wright's challenge last Wednesday.

That, however, was the extent of Flowers's bad luck. He made a fine save from a free kick by Redknapp, but his struggles in the air should have seen Liverpool home by half-time. From one cross by Redknapp, with Flowers stranded, Fowler headed against a post with the goal exposed; from another, with the goalkeeper again groping thin air, Mark Wright shot over. "A great chance, but somehow I seemed to kick it over the bar," Wright said.

That — with Fowler having a rare off day, missing five or six gilt-edged chances and having no luck when an effort curled round Flowers came out off a post — was the story of Liverpool's afternoon. Collymore did not have a worthwhile opportunity; everybody else missed.

It could have been even worse for Liverpool. David James escaping the award of a penalty against him for bringing down Gallacher. "I can't say too much about the referee because he did give us a couple of throw-ins," Parkes said, "but we can't really grumble about anything today, because we've had the luck."

Who would deny them some fortune at the end of a trying week in which it was confirmed that Sven Göran Eriksson would not be joining them as manager? Parkes, who continues to mastermind the club's recovery, said: "I'm the most successful caretaker-manager in history." So why not make it permanent?

"I think the club are looking for someone more long-term, looking for a bigger name who is going to buy big-name players and get the club back to what it was two years ago," Parkes said. It is tempting to say that, if Sir John Smith had thought that way, nobody would have heard of Bob Paisley. Blackburn, though, are not Liverpool and, with further rumblings of players wanting to follow Alan Shearer, a big-name manager might be necessary.

LIVERPOOL (3-4-1-2): D James — B Kvarme, M Wright, D Matteo — J McAteer, J Redknapp, J Barnes, S I Bjornebye — S McManaman — R Fowler, S Collymore.
BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-3-2-1): T Flowers — J Kenna, H Berg, C Hendry, G Le Saux — T Sherwood, W McKinlay, G Flitcroft — K Gallacher, J Wilcox — C Sutton (sub: P Pedersen, 62min).
Referee: M Bodenham.

Paying the price of pop star's celebrity status

STEVE McMANAMAN



awaits reaction to his visit to the Brit awards

Injuries and my manager permitting, I shall be attending the Brit awards this evening. I say this because I will may be sharing a table with artists from the pop music world at the dinner and it is therefore very likely that I might get a bit of media attention because of it.

If I close my eyes and listen, I can hear now what people will say: "Footballers these days, they're like pop stars. Attending music award ceremonies instead of concentrating on football."

It's not like that, of course. More and more people are saying footballers get the same attention as pop stars, but that is ridiculous. We are professional sportsmen. We have to train, be fit and look after ourselves; otherwise we could not play at the top level.

I am going to the awards only because we at Liverpool have been given the day off, as we are not playing again until next Sunday. I am taking the chance — a rare one — to visit London to meet friends and business colleagues to catch up on various matters.

Yes, I do happen to share an adviser with the Spice Girls. And yes, I hope they are going to have a successful night. But no — before you ask — that is as far as our association goes.

Of course, it will be a chance to relax as well, unwind away from football for a short while, and it shouldn't be too bad to be among the cream of the British pop business, but, seriously, it is easy to criticise footballers for unwinding; but, done sensibly, it is, surely, a wise thing.

> 'I was even recognised on the Great Wall'

The pressures surrounding football are immense and to be immersed in that pressure constantly can have an adverse effect. I think that footballers have become far more high profile in the past ten years or so. This, I believe, is where the talk of us being like pop stars comes from.

We are recognised far more now than ever before. Indeed, our profile has gone through the roof. It is, of course, television that has given football this profile, because it has taken our game to a far wider audience. Television seems to offer instant fame these days to anyone broadcast on it.

After the European championship, we were recognised by people who had not been fans of the game before. It is a certain celebrity of sorts to be recognised like that, to be signing autographs all the time, but I don't feel much of a celebrity. I am a professional sportsman.

The problem is, we end up on the news pages because of that "celebrity", as well as the sports pages. It means that even going to an event like the Brit awards can bring adverse publicity, because you could be pictured with pop singers — and inferences can be drawn.

Things are frequently taken out of context. Think back, yet again, to the England trip to Hong Kong — the only chance we had to unwind in six weeks between the end of the season and the start of the European championship. Nobody did anything more than relax and enjoy himself, and yet the pictures printed in the papers suggested that we started World War Three.

We did not go over the top, did not break curfews and a member of the management team was there to see us behave. Of course, footballers have to set an example and sometimes they can get it wrong, but, like every other person, they need an outlet for the pressures that they are under.

Because of this scrutiny, I think we are under more pressure than ever. We are recognised everywhere we go. It's not so bad for me in Liverpool — in general, people leave me alone and let me get on with my life because I am a local lad and even Everton supporters seem to accept me — but, when I go elsewhere, it can be difficult. In Ireland, it is amazing. We were in Dublin on one occasion, just doing a bit of shopping, and were mobbed in the street. It was like a scene out of a Beatles movie; we had to run to jump into a cab to escape.

It was the same in Hong Kong. Walking down the street became impossible, because so many people just wanted a piece of you. In China, too — I was even recognised on the Great Wall.

I do not mind. It is something that I have learnt to live with and handle ever since I was a teenager just getting into the reserve side. It just seems to come with the job. You learn how to deal with all the trappings, the celebrity, the media.

Nevertheless, it would be nice to think that I could go to a function to see a few friends and have a night off without any comment, but I know that someone, somewhere, will have something to say. The fact is that even footballers need other things to do with their time and, if they are sensible, then it shouldn't be a problem.

Scholar and Wray set to take over Forest

BY JASON NISSÉ

IRVING SCHOLAR, late of Tottenham Hotspur, and Nigel Wray, the owner of Saracens, look certain to take control of Nottingham Forest tonight after their only remaining rivals bidding for the struggling FA Carling Premiership club gave up the fight yesterday.

The consortium led by Albert Scardino, a former press officer for Bill Clinton, was holed below the waterline when Mercury Asset Management, one of its two City backers, withdrew, professing the belief that market for football clubs was too high. Mercury was looking to invest now in the hope of floating Forest, but said it thought the market for football clubs would weaken over the next 18 months. A fourth bidder, Grant Bovey, also lost his backing earlier this month after posting an offer to Forest shareholders.

Scholar and Wray will now go forward with a bid that ploughs £16 million into Forest and gives up to £3 million to the 209 shareholders, who have to vote by a 75 per cent majority to accept the deal. This is by no means certain, as the previous special general meeting, last month, threw out the £11 million offer from Sandy Anderson, the Rangers-supporting rail tycoon, after Scholar circulated a letter saying that he was able to come up with a higher bid.

The Scholar-Wray team, which also includes Phil Soar, the football author, and Nick Leslau, the property tycoon, have said that they want to float Forest later this year. However, City experts have expressed doubts about their abilities to do this.

NatWest, Forest's bankers, have agreed to extend the club's £7.6 million overdraft, which should allow the vast majority of the £16 million being put in to be given to Stuart Pearce, the player-manager, to buy players.

Milosevic lets Forest off hook

Nottingham Forest 0
Aston Villa 0

BY BRIAN GLANVILLE

SAVO MILOSEVIC might have scored twice, but he missed in the first half and was given offside, controversially but not outrageously, in the second. So Villa got no goals and Forest survived. Today a shareholders' meeting may decide the fate of the club, let alone the team; and it is a team still in trouble.

On Saturday, with Stuart Pearce, the player-manager, suspended, and Ian Woan being sent on far too late, they just about survived. Pearce did not go to the press conference. Instead, he sent the team's fitness trainer, with the message: "We never played well at all, to be fair, but we've grinded [sic] out a result, and that's the kind of thing we've got to go on doing to the end of the season."

Had Milosevic scored when it seemed difficult to miss, all the grinding in the world would scarcely have sufficed. Dwight Yorke, certainly, deserved a better response when, with 17 minutes played, he spun superbly between Phillips and Chettle, sped on towards goal and, unselfishly and precisely, laid the ball off to his left. Milosevic was all alone. The pass came to his favoured left foot but he hit it hopelessly wide.

Brian Little, the Villa manager, said: "You've got to make the goalkeeper save it, and the goal would have been a good one for us." One good enough, no doubt, to have ensured eventual victory.

A few minutes from time, with Villa relentlessly calling the tune, Haaland, Forest's Norway midfield player, carelessly headed back, straight to Draper. On went the ball to Milosevic, Yorke and, in the goal zone, Milosevic again. He made contact and the ball found its way in, but the linesman's flag had already gone up.

"We didn't really see anything wrong with the goal," Little said. "The linesman said Dwight was offside, which we find hard to believe. We didn't see any appeal from them, so it's a major disappointment to us. The lads were in charge of the game and we should have won."

So they should. Time and again Fernando Nelson and the tiny Alan Wright (why does he never play for England?), their adventurous wing backs, went flying down the flanks and Forest's defence held out at full stretch.

Nigel Clough, returning to the side, was a peripheral figure in midfield, where once upon a time their attacks swirled so dangerously around him.

In the second half Forest barely escaped when Milosevic, Wright (twice) and Yorke were involved in a movement down the left that ended with Wright squeezing the ball across from the byline. Draper got in a header that Chettle headed out from under the bar.

Forest did not have a shot on goal until the 57th minute, a weak one from Clough that gave Bosnich no trouble at all. Indeed, the only real save that the Villa goalkeeper had to make was after fully 87 minutes. Clough found Bart-Williams on the left but Bosnich plunged on the drive.

Crossley, in Forest's goal, had been a great deal busier. When Townsend hit a loose ball, untypically, with his right foot, Crossley turned it for a corner. He did the same with Yorke's shot after a fine run and cross by Nelson.

Forest's defence never got to grips with Yorke, who combined great skill with power, flair and speed.

"We played well enough really to have got something," Little said. "We sensed it was a good day today to come here and play."

Pearce or no Pearce, a good few other teams are bound to think the same way. To stay in the FA Carling Premiership, Forest will have to do a great deal more grinding.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): M Crossley — D Lyttle, S Chettle, C Cooper, D Phillips — N Clough, A I Haaland, C Bart-Williams, S Gemmill — D Saunders, B Roy (sub: I Woan, 77min).
ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M Bosnich — U Ehiogu, S Staunton (sub: R Scimeca, 47), G Southgate — F Nelson, I Taylor, M Draper, A Townsend, A Wright — D Yorke, S Milosevic.
Referee: G Barber.

Middlesbrough's call from the heart

Middlesbrough 0
Newcastle United 1

BY MARK HODKINSON

MOBILE phones, cars, jewellery and fizzy drinks are all advertised in the Middlesbrough programme. Also in there is a glum figure in monochrome and beneath his wet weekend of a face it reads "Whatever you're going through, we'll go through it with you." The Samaritans clearly know how to select prime advertising sites.

Middlesbrough are now five points adrift of safety in the FA Carling Premiership and have won just two league matches in the past five months. If Bryan Robson, their manager, was to reach for the phone, he would lament his team's wretched luck and insist that his side is too enterprising, too resourceful, too damn good, in fact, for relegation.

All this is true, but it circumvents a classic piece of perverse football logic. This states that teams threatened by relegation shall outplay their opponents, but lose 1-0, or 2-1, depending on the mood of the gods. Middlesbrough were more fluid than Newcastle United, had a greater will-to-win and their composure, despite the frustration of not scoring, was commendable. The impression still remained, however, that, if the entire Newcastle team had decamped to the giant tanker moored on the River Tees just outside the ground, the Middlesbrough strikers would have still sliced their efforts into the seats.

Newcastle scored on their first proper attack. Lee bundled the ball forward and it fell into the path of Ferdinand. He controlled well and his shot went beyond Roberts, collided with the post and rolled over the line.

They might deny the claim, but thereafter it looked suspiciously as if Newcastle were prepared to settle for a slender victory. Tellingly, Ginola, Asprilla and Beardsley, their three most imaginative players, remained on the bench. There were other signs, such as their policy of pulling everyone back for corners and Gillespie rarely crossing the halfway line.



Ferdinand: winning goal

Ravanelli appeared to equalise when he turned quickly in the area and shot past Hislop. Albert put up his arm in appeal and Steve Dunn, the referee, disallowed the effort. Now, everyone knows that defenders raise their arms as frequently as a schoolboy after too much lemonade, but it did appear as if Albert's heel was clipped by Ravanelli.

Middlesbrough's ill fortune continued. Ravanelli chased through and Hislop stumbled before him, but the fall merely propelled the goalkeeper even more quickly to the ball. A strong header by Stamp hit Ravanelli's shoulder and fell gently into Hislop's arms. Pearson's powerful header hit the underside of the bar and bounced free. Finally, a delicate chip from Beck was scooped from the line by Peacock, and the ball once again fell into Hislop's reach.

"Some days they fly into the top corner of the net, on others they are straight at the 'keeper," Robson said. "If we keep playing like that, we are going to get the breaks. We never got one today. If we keep it up from now until May, we will win a lot more than we lose."

Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, did not deny that luck had played its part. "We were fortunate to take three points," he said. On Ravanelli's disallowed goal, he was brilliantly evasive. "The ref might have been right, he might have been wrong" he said.

The referee was, in fact, almost certainly wrong, but this is merely another injustice that Middlesbrough can mention when they make that desperate phone call.

MIDDLESBROUGH (4-3-1-2): B Roberts — N Cox, G Festa, S Vickers (sub: N Pearson, 77min), C Fleming — C Hignott (sub: C Blackmore, 56), R Mustoe, A Moore (sub: P Stamp, 56) — Juninho — F Ravanelli, M Beck.
NEWCASTLE UNITED (3-5-2): S Hislop — S Watson, D Peacock, P Albert — K Gillespie, R Lee, W Barton, L Clark, R Elliott — A Shearer, L Ferdinand.
Referee: S Dunn.

Graham ahead on points

Sunderland 0
Leeds United 1

BY DAVID MADDOCK

BY the finish it was a one-all draw. No, not the relatively dull FA Carling Premiership match between two sides with nothing more than survival in mind, but the eminently more interesting contest between George Graham, the Leeds United manager, and Anthony Yeboah, his malcontent forward.

The pair have indulged in an unseemly squabble in recent months. Yeboah — believes that he — a king among cabbages — should be playing, while Graham says that he has not been fit.

Halfway through the match Graham had taken a clear lead as Yeboah, patently lacking match sharpness, missed three presentable opportunities. "Yeboah could have had a hat-trick, but, as I have been telling our fans all along, he's not been fully match-fit." Graham smiled indulgently afterwards. "I might just have to drop him again." A joke, apparently.

In the second half, though, Yeboah looked up from 35 yards out and sent a shot soaring over Lionel Perez, the bemused Sunderland goalkeeper, on to the top of the crossbar. One-one.

No other player in the Leeds squad is capable of such such mischief. There is a clear case to be argued that a half-fit Yeboah is far better than the fully-fit chickens that lost their heads in the club's two previous matches, against Portsmouth and Liverpool. Graham, though, will have him out in the end — that much is clear even now.

Graham knows what he is doing, even if it is not pretty. Leeds were appalling in their past two games, but here he reshuffled his dog-eared pack to play Sunderland off their park and secure an important victory. Leeds will not go down and Graham will eventually find a forward of similar talent to Yeboah to excite the supporters and follow his orders.

It is Sunderland who must worry after failing to put any daylight between themselves and the relegation pack. Their supporters expressed their discontent after Lee Bowyer caught the defence waiting for an offside flag that never came in the 49th minute.

"The crowd pay their dough and so are entitled to their opinion," Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, said. "We weren't good enough, but we just have to work at it and see if we can survive."

SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): L Perez — G Hall, R Ord, A Melville, M Scott — D Williams (sub: M Smith, 46min), P Bracewell, K Ball, M Gray (sub: C Russell, 51) — D Kelly, J Austin (sub: A Rae, 76).
LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): N Menyn — G Halle, R Molenaar, G Kelly, A Dongo (sub: I Harte, 23) — I Rush, L Radebe, L Bowyer, L Sharpe — B Deane, A Yeboah (sub: R Wallace, 86).
Referee: G Poll.

If Napoleon had better information, he might not have met his Waterloo.
How goes the battle?



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FOOTBALL: COMBINATION OF CONTINENTAL FLAIR AND BRITISH RESILIENCE PRODUCES ENTHRALLING ENCOUNTER

New breed delivers best of both worlds

Chelsea 1
Manchester United..... 1

BY ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

I THINK we have it! Two supreme goals, one of great beauty and imagination from Zola, the Italian, the other of astonishing timing and volleying technique from Beckham, the English hope, illuminated an intriguing match at Stamford Bridge.

The way Chelsea, with their elusive movement and their integrated foreign techniques, dictated the first half, suggested that the Anglo-Saxon game had much to learn from imported talent. Manchester United, though, resilient champions to say the least, rearranged their formation, ended up attacking in 4-3-3 formation, deployed Ryan Giggs in the manner of the suspended Cantona, as the brain cell behind the front-runners, and showed that the learning process is advancing fast.

It is costing a great deal of money to import the likes of Zola. However, as he showed against England at Wembley,

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The real world 31

his class is among the best in the world. For too long, there had been the myth of English superiority, the belief that nobody could live with our amalgam of faith and force.

Minds are opening, however, at least at the very top end of the FA Carling Premiership. Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea manager, whose team really needed to win to sustain a credible championship challenge, was content at the finish. "The Premiership is getting better, it is becoming an example abroad, and I can say this because I have played there and I have just come back from Milan, where they are asking how we organise things here," he said.

Gullit believes that it is not just the acquisition of foreigners. "It is the organisation of clubs," he said. "I could not organise Chelsea. Ken Bates [chairman] and Colin Hutchinson [managing director] do that. That leaves the coach free to organise the tactics, to buy the right players ... and who could complain with what you saw today?"

Chelsea's early supremacy stemmed, just as Italy's did at Wembley two weeks ago, from that little-big man, Zola. On Saturday he found a similar space all to himself, a space between defenders who thought that they knew their territory.

He had actually begun the move that led to his goal on the halfway line, producing a visionary pass from right to left for Hughes. He, of course, formerly of United, controlled the ball on the move, on his chest.

From Hughes to Newton to Petrescu the ball was dispatched, and then, who was running free, who was finding space? Zola.

He nipped behind Irwin, his immaculate control drew the ball back, putting that fine Ireland defender on the seat of his pants. Next was Pallister, a centre half that some observers said would have plugged the gap for England. He could not do it this time, though: he was static and confused as Zola ran in front of him and then, turning with breathtaking invention, he used his left foot to beat Schmeichel at the near post.

One could see then the tactical question that Chelsea had posed. Di Matteo had been pushed into the "hole" behind Zola and Hughes. Brian Kidd, United's assistant manager, began gesticulating for change, looking up into the stand where Alex Ferguson, the manager, sat. He wanted Gary Neville to step forward from defence against Di Matteo. Ferguson came down to the bench and, after much encroachment to the touchline, United's tactics evolved so that they put the emphasis on attack with the switch of Giggs into the thinking position.

Before that Zola had, with typical wizardry, offered a chance that Hughes squandered. Hughes also used his mighty ability to hold the ball and an instinctive turn, drew a two-fisted save from Schmeichel from 20 yards. Even now, United must rue the day that he was allowed to leave Old Trafford.

"Of all the teams we have met this season," Ferguson said, "Chelsea showed the most imagination in the final third of the field. Zola is even better than I thought he was." Ferguson's tactical changes suppressed a Chelsea team in which Wise had looked the equal, in thought and manoeuvrability, of his Italian team-mates.

It became United who were most likely to score against Grodas, the substitute goalkeeper on for Hitchcock, who damaged a shoulder colliding with McClair. It became United who applied imagination to movement and, after Pallister and Johnsen had failed to capitalise on heading chances, Chelsea's lead was finally eclipsed by Beckham. Sinclair had produced numerous desperate clearances with his head, but when, in the 68th minute, he misdirected the ball after Neville had crossed, it fell towards Beckham.

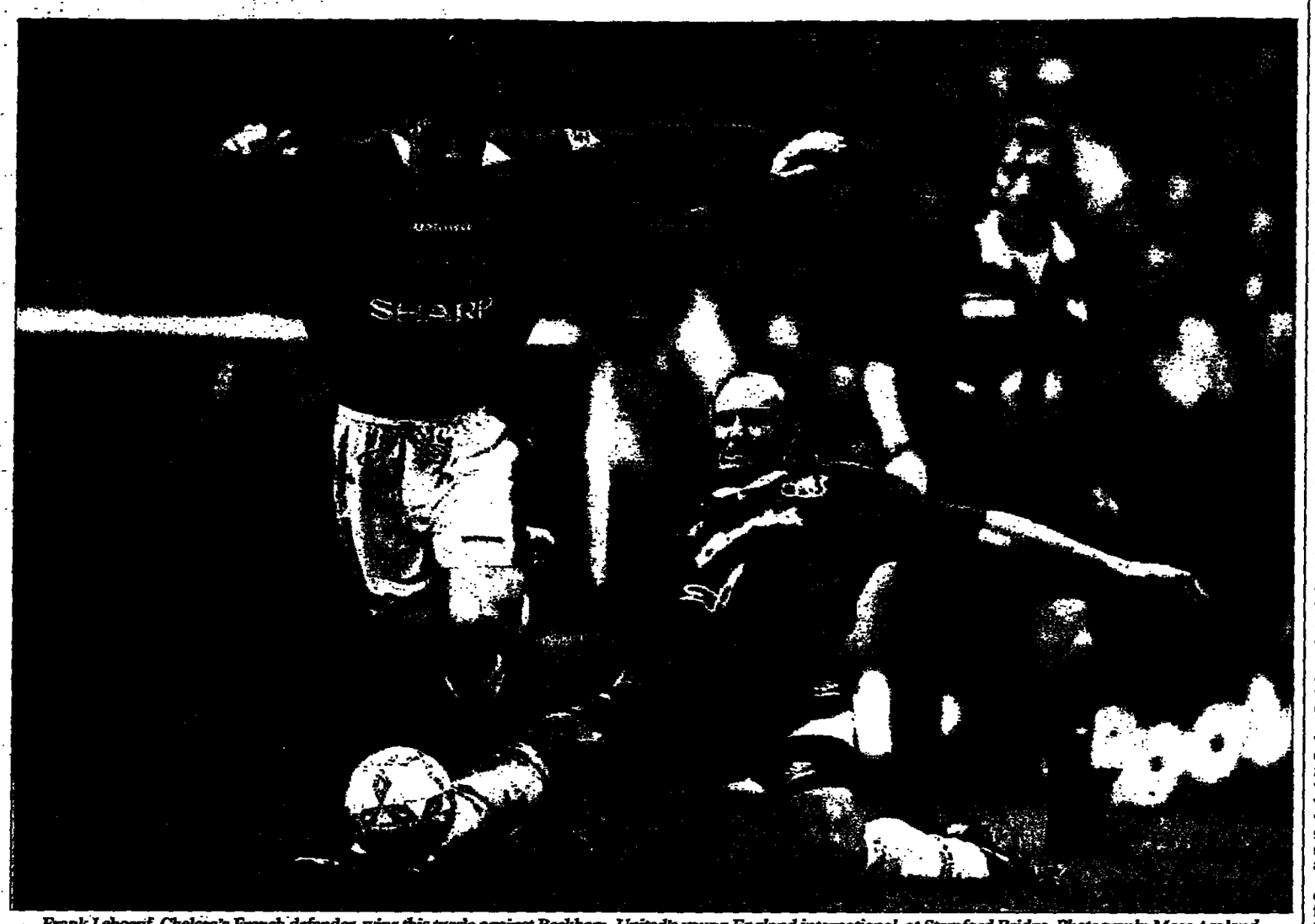
Instantly, with a technical quality that we sometimes think is beyond the schooling of England's players, Beckham volleyed the ball and sent it with high velocity into the roof of the net.

Thus, United retained their narrow lead over Chelsea and the chasing pack at the top of the table. Keane, their most recent captain, had found that, unlike at Highbury, where he was a colossus in a physical battle, he needed much help from the bench to get to grips with the tactics that confused him.

The learning process in a side that will not lightly relinquish their title was there to be enjoyed. The respect that Chelsea have so quickly gained from United demonstrates that, with money and vision, England's clubs could be going places.

Chelsea have perhaps improved 30 per cent since last season; United, if they are to take the ultimate step in Europe, still have to gain another 10 per cent in terms of guile and ability on the ball.

CHELSEA (3-4-1-2): K Hitchcock (sub: F Grodas, 49min) — F Sinclair, F Leboeuf, S Clarke — D Petrescu (sub: R Gullit, 74), E Newton, D Wise, S Minto (sub: E Johnsen, 70) — R Di Matteo — G Zola, M Hughes
MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, R Johnsen (sub: D May, 90), G Pallister, D Irwin — D Beckham, R Keane, B McClair, R Giggs (sub: J Cruyff, 83) — A Cole, O G Solskjaer.
Referee: G Ashby



Frank Leboeuf, Chelsea's French defender, wins this tussle against Beckham, United's young England international, at Stamford Bridge. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Euphoria gives way to shameful scenes at Saltergate

Chesterfield..... 1
Plymouth Argyle..... 2

BY SIMON WILDE

IF CHESTERFIELD had climbed to the top of their town's famous steeple and tried to abseil down by their muddy bootlaces, they could have barely jeopardised their chances of reaching the FA Cup semi-finals to a greater extent than they did on Saturday in this Nationwide League second division match.

That they performed with a mystifying lack of cohesion and passion, and lost a home league game for the first time in five months to a team playing — for the most part — with ten men, were just some of the worrying aspects to the day. Of more concern was the total lack of discipline that allowed several members of the team to become involved in a disgraceful fracas that erupted two minutes before the finish and would not have looked out of place in a Wild West saloon.

Two key Chesterfield players — Davies and Carr, both of whom shone in the historic cup defeat of Nottingham Forest seven days earlier — were among four players sent off by Richard Poulain, the referee, after the mass brawl, which involved 18 players and was quelled only by the intervention of coaching staff and stewards. Both players will miss the Cup quarter-final tie against Wrexham on March 9.

James and Logan, of Plymouth Argyle, the last team from this level to reach the Cup semi-finals, in 1984, were dismissed for their parts in the incident, reducing their side to eight men, Maugé having been shown the red card in the first half for a wild tackle.

The fighting blew up as Chesterfield pressed for a last-gasp equaliser after winning a corner on the right. Close shots were repeatedly blocked before the ball came to rest in the midst of a scrum of players jostling for possession. In an instant fisticuffs broke out.



Grobbelaar: bruised

Fortunately, the incident took place at the visitors' end of the ground, away from the bulk of the crowd, otherwise it might have proved more inflammatory. As it was, a few supporters ran on to the pitch. Police will study videotape of the scenes before deciding whether to take action against players or leave the matter in the hands of the FA.

There was a consensus that what sparked the trouble was Grobbelaar, the Plymouth goalkeeper, being knocked to the ground. Clearly Grobbelaar was badly shaken — he received treatment where he fell, was helped from the pitch at the end of the game and sported a large bruise around his right eye — but there was no need for excuses. The situation was already incendiary enough.

Chesterfield, frustrated at their impotence against lowlier opponents, had been offered a glimpse of salvation by Howard's goal five minutes earlier. They were desperate. Plymouth came prepared to fight tooth and nail for a draw and were justifiably proud of snatching two goals. They did not want their advantage cancelled out at the last minute. They were desperate, too.

"I have to be careful what I say, but I may have wound up my players a little too much," Mick Jones, the Plymouth manager, said. Poulain described it as the worst brawl he had seen. "I have to admit it was frightening. I don't want to see it repeated," he said.

After Forest had been felled, Tony Benn, the MP for Chesterfield, praised his team's heroic performance, saying that it showed "there are real life Davids and Goliaths". At Saltergate, on Saturday, there were only Vandals and Goths.

CHESTERFIELD (3-5-2): B Mercer — J Hewitt, M Williams, D Carr — C Perkins, T Lormor, T Curtis, C Beaumont (sub: G Lund, 80min), J Howard — S Gaughan (sub: G Patterson, 68), K Davies.
PLYMOUTH ARGYLE (4-4-2): B Grobbelaar — C Billy, C Curran, T James, R Logan — P Williams, M Saunders, C Corazzin, R Maugé — M Evans, N Ilman (sub: P Wotton, 89).
Referee: R Poulain.

Leicester scallywags pack punch

Leicester City 4
Derby County..... 2

BY PAT GIBSON

IT IS hard to imagine a scruffier pair of urchins kicking a ball around a public park. Steve Claridge, shirt flapping outside baggy shorts and socks rolled down to the ankles, is the archetypal scallywag while Ian Marshall looks like his big brother, trying hard to set a better example but not making too much of a fist of it.

They will cut incongruous figures just off the King's Road on Wednesday night when they take on Chelsea's trendy international set in their FA Cup fifth round replay, but Ruud, Gianfranco and company will mock the sartorial inelegance at their peril.

Claridge and Marshall epitomise the spirit of a Leicester City side that ended a traumatic week with a rousing victory that should do much to ensure their survival in the FA Carling Premiership.

To Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, this Midlands derby was far more important than either the FA Cup, in which they had hit back from two goals down to scare the pants off Chelsea last Sunday, or the Coca-Cola Cup, which saw them overcome the shock of losing Ullathorne, their new signing, with a broken ankle to hold Wimbledon to a goalless draw in the first leg of the semi-final on Tuesday.

"Great, terrific, brilliant... I could ask no more of them."



Marshall: early hat-trick

O'Neill kept saying, shaking his head as if he, himself, could not quite believe the sheer resilience of a side shorne of its four best players (Heskey, Lennon, Izzet and Elliott) through suspension and another five senior men because of injury.

Only now he has something else to worry about. The banned four will all be back on Wednesday, so how is he going to accommodate Marshall, who could not get into the team at the start of the season because Claridge and Heskey had formed such a fruitful partnership and then found himself playing at centre back because of the injury crisis?

"He wants to play centre forward and I cannot argue with that," O'Neill said after Marshall had shrugged off a groin injury of his own to score a hat-trick in the space of 20 minutes in the first half.

What made it all the more remarkable was that Derby County had taken the lead in the second minute when Trollope's shot struck Sturridge and flew past a wrong-footed Keller, but they then squandered that good fortune with what Jim Smith, their manager, said was one of their most disappointing performances of the season.

"They were gifted goals," Smith said, pointing the finger at his goalkeeper and three central defenders, but that should not detract from the way that Marshall took them, volleying in spectacularly from Lawrence's cross in the seventh minute, punishing Hoult for making a hash of a back pass in the 24th, and sweeping home a cross from Claridge in the 27th.

It looked as though Leicester were beginning to flag when Sturridge put Derby back into the game with an audacious back-heel two minutes into the second half, but more sloppy defending enabled Claridge to settle the issue on the hour.

LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K Keller — S Prior, J Watts, S Walsh — J Lawrence, S Taylor (sub: S Wilson, 58min), G Parker, S Campbell, S Grayson — S Claridge, I Marshall.
DERBY COUNTY (3-5-2): R Hoult — G Rowett, P McGrath (sub: P Simpson, 66), I Stimac — C Daily (sub: M Rahmberg, 82), L Cawley, A Asanovic, P Trollope, C Powell (sub: J Laursen, 45) — D Sturridge, A Ward.
Referee: P Durkin.

Le Tissier stands tall while Southampton rise and fall

Mel Webb exonerates the England enigma as Sheffield Wednesday win 3-2 at The Dell

During those far-off days of youth, there was a player in the school cricket first XI who was so talented, so indolently able and yet so other-worldly that more than once he went out to bat while still wearing his school blazer. He never seemed to notice that he was in the middle with his jacket on, or that he was being more than averagely eccentric. More often than not, he was brilliant without seeming to realise why. In footballing terms, Matthew Le Tissier plays with his blazer on.

This was Southampton's first FA Carling Premiership match for three weeks and therefore also Le Tissier's first match since "that appearance" for England against Italy. Since then, thousands of words and acres of newspaper space have been used in dissecting his every action in England's defeat.

Judging by the critics' reactions, anybody would think that he had been guilty of high treason instead of producing 60 mildly ordinary minutes' football for his country. If some people had their way, Le Tissier and Glenn Hoddle would even now be swinging from a gibbet somewhere symbolically close to Wembley Way.

There are some people about whom it is virtually impossible to be non-committal. Like, for example, Noel Edmonds, Des O'Connor and Dennis Skinner MP. In football, precious few followers of the game could not care less about Paul Gascoigne or Ian Wright; or Le Tissier.

This was, by any standards, an infuriating display by Southampton. They were 2-0 up at half-time, having run rings round a Sheffield Wednesday side whose performance in that first 45 minutes was later described by David Pleat, their manager, as "wimpish".

Le Tissier was in the thick of it and also scored a goal from the penalty spot. In the second half Wednesday maintained a remarkable sequence that has seen them undefeated at The Dell for 27 years and Southampton needed to improve by a factor of about ten to be awful while deepening the threat of relegation. An honourable exception to such a blanket judgment was Le Tissier.

There is no doubt that he can be an infuriating fellow, and casual observation might have supported the argument; he does appear at times to flit in and out of a game. Closer examination showed him in a much more favourable light.

Le Tissier will never possess the muscular, in-your-face virtues that, say, Alan Shearer, his former team-mate, brings to a game of football. His contribution is infinitely more subtle than that. It says a good deal for his moral fibre that he came back from being the unsolicited target for unrestrained journalistic bile after England lost 1-0 to Italy to produce a performance of grace and style.

He did enough to induce willing purring sounds from Graeme Souness, his manager, and Pleat. "He's a fantastic talent," Pleat gushed. "I thought he played very well," was the more prosaic assessment of Souness, who is not a man given to verbal excesses. They were both right.

There were flicks, glides, shuffling movement off the ball and the sort of ghosting runs that once led to Martin Peters being described as ten years ahead of his time. If blame was to be hurled as Southampton subsided to dreadful mediocrity in the second half, little of it should have stuck to Le Tissier's hunched shoulders.

After Ostenstad had given Southampton the lead, Le Tissier was at the heart of the move that led to Newsome's handball and his own stroked penalty 13 minutes before half-time.

After the break, Southampton forgot all the good things that had seemingly put the match out of Wednesday's reach at the interval and let their opponents continue a run that has brought only one defeat in 20 games. Hirst scored twice and Booth snatched a third, and, in the face of wholesale dreadfulness all around him, Le Tissier almost alone maintained his standards.

It was good, gallant and skilled stuff that he strutted as the game slipped relentlessly away. He was not always all that obvious, but everything that he did had some meaning and purpose.

For part of the time he must have wondered what was going on around him. In the remainder he was probably thinking about something infinitely deeper — like translating Homer from the original Greek, for instance. In his blazer, of course.



Le Tissier: penalty goal

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-1-1): M Taylor — U van Gobbel (sub: R Slater, 66min), K Monkou, N Maddison, S Charlton (sub: M Robinson, 83) — J Dodd, J Magilton, E Berkovic, A Neilson — M Le Tissier — E Ostenstad.
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): K Pressman — S Nicol, J Newsome, D Stefanovic, I Nolan — R Humphreys (sub: R Blinker, 46), W Collins (sub: A Booth, 46), P Atherton, M Pembridge — D Hirst, B Carbone (sub: S Oakes, 89).
Referee: M Reed

Royle suffers in Southall's shadow

Coventry City 0
Everton..... 0

BY OLIVER HOLT

FIRST there were missed chances and then, as the game descended towards the depths, there were wilder shots at redemption that ballooned over the bar or veered off towards the corner flags. It was a day for goalkeepers, not strikers, at Highfield Road on Saturday, but such was the quality of the game that the man who attracted most post-match comment was not even playing.

Neville Southall, the goalkeeper who has been at the top of his trade for so long, was dropped by Joe Royle, the Everton manager, during the team's record-equalling run of six consecutive league defeats that ended earlier this month. Paul Gerrard, his replacement, has kept two consecutive clean sheets, but Royle has been branded an apostate on Merseyside.

Even though the bad run has come to an end, and Everton have sneaked back into the top half of the table, the criticism of the manager has continued, and, even after this drab draw, a game in which the two best chances were squandered for Everton by Short and Ferguson, Royle felt compelled to defend himself against the latest attacks.

"Our goalkeeper looked very assured today," he said, "but I have got to be careful because what I have just said might be used against me in the local newspaper. If I say something, it will be taken down in evidence and used against me.

"The fact is that a situation has arisen where an international class goalkeeper cannot get in the side. He is not happy about it and I would not expect him to be, but, if he is making noises about applying for manager's jobs, then it is common sense that I have got to get someone else in and that is misconstrued in local papers as me treating a legend with disrespect."

Unfortunately for Royle, Gerrard had little opportunity to prove his mettle on Saturday, so stout was the defending of Short, so profligate the finishing of Huckerby, Hall and Whelan.

At times it resembled a nonsense match, a game drifting away on flights of fancy but brought thudding back to earth by the limited skill and confidence of the players. Free kicks invariably hit defensive walls and miscued shots cannoned around both areas like demented pinballs.

Huckerby never stopped running at the Everton defence and twice exposed Watson before Short came to the rescue, but, when he had his best chance, midway through the second half, he shot straight at Gerrard instead of squaring the ball to Ndlovu, who was better placed. For Everton, Short sidefooted Ferguson's nod-down against the post after 20 minutes and Ferguson himself lashed Dublin's underhit backpass into the sidenetting four minutes after half-time.

Afterwards, Royle and Gordon Strachan, his Coventry counterpart, were honest enough to admit that it had not been a classic. "It was not one to put in the tape collection," Strachan said.

COVENTRY CITY (3-5-2): S Ogrizovic — R Shaw, P Williams, G Breen — P Telfer, G McAllister, K Richardson, P Ndlovu (sub: N Whelan, 72min), M Hall — D Dublin, D Huckerby.
EVERTON (4-4-2): P Gerrard — E Barrett, D Watson, C Short, D Unsworth — G Stuart, G Speed, C Thomsen, T Phelan — N Barmby, D Ferguson.
Referee: J Winter.

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FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

CHELSEA (1) 1 **MANCHESTER UTD** (0) 1
Zola 2
28,336 — Beckham 68

Chelsea: K Hitchcock (sub: F Grodas, 49min), D Petrescu (sub: S Gullit, 74min), F Leboeuf, S Clarke, M Hughes, D Wise, R Di Matteo, F Sinclair, E Newton, G Zola, S Minto (sub: E Johnsen, 70min).
Manchester United: P Schmeichel, G Neville, D Irwin, G Pallister, A Cole, D Beckham, R Giggs (sub: J Cruyff, 83min), B McClair, R Keane, R Johnsen (sub: D May, 90min), O G Solskjaer.
Booked: Keane.
Referee: G Ashby.

COVENTRY (0) 0 **EVERTON** (0) 0
19,497

Coventry City: S Ogrizovic, R Shaw, P Williams, G Breen, K Richardson, G McAllister, P Telfer, P Ndlovu N (sub: Whelan, 73min), M Hall, D Dublin, D Huckerby
Everton: P Gerrard, D Unsworth, D Watson, C Short, E Barrett, 7 Phelan, G Speed, *N Barmby, C Thomsen*, G Ebbrell, D Ferguson.
Referee: J Winter

LEICESTER (3) 4 **DERBY** (1) 2
Marshall 7, 24, 27 — Stimrider 2, 47
Claridge 59 — 20,333

Leicester City: K Keller, S Grayson, J Lawrence, S Prior, J Watts, S Walsh, S Taylor (sub: S Wilson, 57min), S Campbell, S Parker, S Claridge. I Marshall
Derby County: R Hoult, G Rowett, C Powell (sub: J Laursen, 45min), I Simrec, D Sturridge, A Asanovic, A Ward, P Trotlope, L Carsley, C Dailly (sub: M Rahmberg, 82min), P McGrath (sub: P Simpson, 67min)
Booked: Rowett, Stimrider
Referee: P Durkin.

LIVERPOOL (0) 0 **BLACKBURN** (0) 0
40,747

Liverpool: D James, J McAteer, B Kvarme, M Wright, D Matteo, S I Bjornebye, S McManaman, J Barnes, J Redknapp, S Collymore, R Fowler.
Blackburn Rovers: T Flowers, J Kenna, T Sherwood, C Hendry, G Le Saux, K Gallacher, C Sutton (sub: P Pedersen, 58min), J Wilcox, W McKinlay, H Berg, G Flitcroft
Booked: Flowers.
Referee: M Bodenham.

MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 0 **NEWCASTLE** (1) 1
30,063 — Ferdinand 8

Middlesbrough: B Roberts, N Cox, S Vickers, R Mustoe, M Beck, Juninho, F Rosenthal, A Moore, C Fleming, G Festa, C Hignett.
Booked: Roberts
Newcastle United: S Hislop, S Watson, R Elliott, L Clark, D Peacock, P Allen, R Lee, K Gillespie, *A Shearer*, L Ferdinand, W Barton
Booked: Clark.
Referee: S Dunn.

NOTTM FOREST (0) 0 **ASTON VILLA** (0) 0
25,239

Nottingham Forest: *M Crossley, D Lyttle, C Cooper, S Chettle*, C Bart-Williams, D Phillips, S Gemmill, D Saunders, B Roy (sub: I Wase, 75min), A I Haaland, N Clough.
Booked: Gemmill, Lyttle
Aston Villa: M Bosnich, F Nelson, A Wright, U Ehiogu, S Staunton (sub: R Schnecca, 46min), G Southgate, I Taylor, M Draper, A Townsend, D Yorke, S Milosevic.
Booked: Nelson
Referee: G Barber.

SOUTHAMPTON (2) 2 *SHERRELD WED* (0) 3
Osenstad 28 — Hirst 49, 56
Le Tissier 33 (pen) — Booth 78
15,062

Southampton: M Taylor, A Neilson, S Charlton (sub: M Robinson, 83min), U van Gobbel (sub: R Slater, 66min), N Maddison, K Monkou, J Magilton, M Le Tissier, E Osterstad, *E Berkovic, J Dodd*.
Booked: Van Gobbel, Monkou.
Sheffield Wednesday: *K Pressman, P Atherton*, I Nolan, M Pembridge, J Newsome, D Stefanovic, W Collins (sub: A Booth, 46min), S Nicol, B Carbone (sub: S Oakes, 89min), D Hirst, R Humphreys (sub: R Blinker, 46min).
Booked: Atherton, Carbone, Blinker, Pembridge.
Referee: *M D Reed*.

SUNDERLAND (0) 0 **LEEDS** (0) 1
21,890 — Bowyer 49

Sunderland: L Perez, G Hall, M Scott, A Melville, G Ord, M Gray (sub: C Russell, 51min), D Williams (sub: M Smith, 45min), P Bracewell, K Ball, D Kelly, J Mullin (sub: A Rae, 76min).
Booked: Ball, Rae.
Leeds United: N Martyn, G Kelly, A Dorigo (sub: I Harte, 22min), L Radebe, I Sharpe, I Rosa, B Deane, L Bowyer, G Halle, A Yeboah (sub: R Wallace, 86min), R Molenaar.
Booked: Molenaar.
Referee: G Poll.

Yesterday

ARSENAL (0) 0 **WIMBLEDON** (1) 1
37,854 — Jones 21

Arsenal: *J Lukic, L Dixon, N Winterburn, P Vieira, S Bould* (sub: S Morrow, 46min), I Wright, P Merson, O Bergkamp, R Parlour (sub: S Hughes, 45min), R Garde (sub: P Shaw, 78min), S Marshall.
Booked: Dixon.
Wimbledon: N Sullivan, K Cunningham, A Kimble, V Jones (sub: B McAllister, 56min), D Blackwell, O Leonhardsen (sub: P Fear, 13min), R Earle, E Ekoku, *M Gayle* (sub: *D Holdsworth*, 87min), C Perry, N Ardley.
Referee: *P Jones*.

GOALSCORERS

	Lge	Cup	Euro	Total
I Wright (Arsenal)	17	5	2	24
A Shearer (Newcastle)	20	2	1	23
R Fowler (Liverpool)	13	6	3	22
F Ravanelli (Middlesbrough)	10	10	0	20
L Ferdinand (Newcastle)	13	1	4	18
D Yorke (Aston Villa)	14	3	0	17
M Le Tissier (Southampton)	11	3	0	14
O G Solskjaer (Man Utd)	12	0	1	13
S Collymore (Liverpool)	10	2	1	13
M Gayle (Wimbledon)	*8*	4	*0*	12
C Sutton (Blackburn)	10	1	0	11
D Beckham (Man Utd)	*8*	1	2	11
E Osterstad (Southampton)	7	4	0	11
E Ekoku (Wimbledon)	9	1	0	10
E Cantona (Man Utd)	8	0	2	10

COMING THIS WEEK

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated — ** denotes all-ticket match*

TODAY

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: West Ham v Tottenham (8.0).

TOMORROW

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: *First division*: Crystal Palace v Reading (7.45); Southend v Norwich (7.45). *Second division*: * Blackpool v Burnley; * Bristol Rovers v Plymouth; Bury v Wrexham (7.45); Millwall v Notts County (7.45); Watford v Shrewsbury (7.45); Wycombe v Peterborough (7.45); York v Preston. *Third division*: *Barnet* v Lincoln (7.45); Cambridge United v Scunthorpe (7.45); Chester v Carlisle; Rochdale v Hull (7.45); Wigan v Darlington (7.45).
AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Northern section: Semi-final: Postponed: Crewe v Stockport.
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: *First division*: Falkirk v Airdrie. *Second division*: Livingston v Brechin. *Third division*: Forfar v Alloa.
TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Fourth-round replay: Dundee United v Hearts.

WEDNESDAY

FA CUP: Fifth round: Derby v Coventry (7.45). Fifth-round replay: Chelsea v Leicester (7.45).
COCA-COLA CUP: Semi-final, first leg: Stockport v Middlesbrough (8.0).
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Southampton v Wimbledon. Postponed: Manchester United v Middlesbrough.
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: *First division*: Swindon v Birmingham (7.45).
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: *Third division*: East Stirling v Arbroath.
TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Fourth-round replay: Celtic v Hibernian (7.45); Hamilton v Motherwell (at Broadwood Stadium, Clyde).

FRIDAY

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: *First division*: Tranmere v Stoke (7.45). *Third division*: Colchester v Scarborough (7.45); Doncaster v Wigan.
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: *Third division*: Albion v Cowdenbeath.

SATURDAY

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Blackburn v Sunderland; Derby v Chelsea; Everton v Arsenal; *Leeds v West Ham*; Manchester United v Coventry; Newcastle v Southampton; Sheffield Wednesday v Middlesbrough; Tottenham v Nottingham Forest; Wimbledon v Leicester.
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: *First division*: Bradford v Manchester City; Grimsby v Birmingham; Norwich v Huddersfield; Oxford United v Crystal Palace, Port Vale v Reading; Portsmouth v Sheffield United; Queens Park Rangers v Oldham; Southend v Barnsley; Swindon v Charlton; Wolverhampton v Ipswich. *Second division*: Bournemouth v Shrewsbury; Bristol Rovers v Walsall; Crewe v Gillingham; Millwall v Wycombe; Notts County v Brentford; Peterborough v Chesterfield; Plymouth v Blackpool; Preston v Bury; Stockport v Rotherham; Watford v Bristol City; Wrexham v Burnley; York v Luton. *Third division*: Carlisle v Lincoln; Darlington v Brighton; Fulham v Chester; Hartlepool v Scunthorpe; Hereford v Exeter; Hull v Northampton; Leyton Orient v Barnet; Mansfield v Cambridge United; Rochdale v Torquay
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Boston v Northwich; Dover v Southport; Gateshead v Hayes; Hednesford v Telford; Kettering v Stalybridge; Macclesfield v Farnborough; Rushden & Diamonds v Slough; Welling v Halifax.
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: *Premier division*: Aberdeen v Rangers; Celtic v Hearts; Dundee United v Dunfermline; Hibernian v Motherwell; Raith v Kilmarnock. *First division*: East Fife v Dundee; Falkirk v St Mirren; Greenock Morton v Stirling; Partick v Airdrie; St Johnstone v Clydebank. *Second division*: Ayr v Berwick; Clyde v Queen of South; Dumbarton v Brechin; Livingston v Hamilton; Stenhousemuir v Stranraer. *Third division*: Arbroath v East Stirling; Inverness CT v Alloa; Montrose v Ross County; Queen's Park v Forfar.

SUNDAY

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Aston Villa v Liverpool (4.0).
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: *First division*: Bolton v West Bromwich Albion (2.10). *Third division*: * Swansea v Cardiff (noon).

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Man Utd	27	9	3	1	26	10	6	6	2	27	20	54	+23
2 Liverpool	27	8	6	1	30	10	7	2	3	16	10	53	+26
3 Newcastle	26	9	2	2	36	16	5	4	4	13	14	48	+21
4 Arsenal	28	8	4	2	30	14	5	5	4	15	12	48	+19
5 A Villa	27	8	3	3	21	11	4	4	5	13	15	43	+8
6 Wimbledon	24	5	4	1	20	12	6	2	5	17	16	42	+9
7 Chelsea	25	6	6	1	23	15	5	3	4	16	19	42	+5
8 Sheff Wed	26	4	7	1	11	8	5	5	4	20	23	39	0
9 Leeds	27	5	3	5	12	12	4	3	7	10	19	33	-9
10 Everton	26	5	2	5	19	14	3	6	5	15	24	32	-4
11 Tottenham	25	5	4	5	15	14	4	1	6	12	19	32	-6
12 Leicester	25	5	3	5	16	19	3	3	6	13	18	30	-8
13 Derby	27	5	4	4	14	13	1	7	6	13	23	29	-9
14 Sunderland	26	5	5	3	13	9	2	3	8	10	24	29	-10
15 Blackburn	25	5	2	4	15	11	1	8	5	11	14	28	+1
16 Coventry	27	3	5	5	12	15	3	5	6	12	20	28	-11
17 Nottm F	26	3	6	5	11	18	2	3	7	12	22	24	-17
18 West Ham	25	4	3	5	13	17	1	4	7	7	16	22	-13
19 Southmptn	24	4	3	5	22	16	1	2	9	12	28	20	-10
20 Middlesbro	25	4	4	5	21	19	1	3	8	9	26	19	-15

†Middlesbrough have been deducted three points

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Bolton	34	12	4	1	38	18	7	7	3	33	29	68	(71)
2 Wolvrhmptn	33	7	3	7	20	17	10	4	2	27	15	58	(47)
3 Barnsley	32	9	3	4	30	17	6	7	3	24	23	55	(54)
4 Sheff Utd	33	8	5	4	33	20	7	4	6	24	19	54	(57)
5 Norwich	33	7	7	3	22	15	7	1	8	28	17	50	(50)
6 C Palace	32	7	3	6	28	15	6	7	4	31	19	49	(59)
7 Ipswich	33	8	5	2	30	18	4	6	7	17	24	48	(47)
8 Portsmth	33	8	3	5	21	16	6	3	8	19	21	48	(40)
9 Port Vale	34	4	9	4	26	23	7	5	5	16	16	47	(42)
10 Stoke	32	10	2	4	23	17	3	6	7	17	26	47	(40)
11 Tranmere	32	6	4	4	31	22	5	3	8	13	20	46	(44)
12 QPR	33	6	4	6	22	19	5	7	5	22	26	44	(44)
13 Oxford Utd	33	10	3	3	30	14	2	4	11	16	29	43	(46)
14 Swindon	33	9	6	3	31	17	4	1	12	14	28	42	(45)
15 West Brom	34	8	7	7	26	28	6	7	4	28	32	41	(54)
16 Huddersfld	34	8	4	5	24	16	2	7	8	16	32	41	(40)
17 Reading	32	9	6	2	29	20	1	4	10	14	30	40	(43)
18 Charlton	32	7	6	4	27	23	4	1	10	12	24	40	(39)
19 Man City	31	8	3	5	23	16	3	2	10	16	27	38	(39)
20 Birmingham	30	7	4	4	21	14	2	6	7	12	21	37	(33)
21 Bradford	33	6	5	5	18	22	2	6	10	14	28	34	(32)
22 Southend	33	6	6	4	24	22	1	5	11	8	37	32	(32)
23 Grimsby	32	4	5	8	21	30	3	5	7	20	26	31	(41)
24 Oldham	31	3	5	7	15	21	3	5	8	17	22	28	(32)

SECOND DIVISION

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Brentford	31	7	9	0	25	14	9	2	4	24	15	59	(49)
2 Luton	30	11	3	2	32	9	5	4	5	22	24	55	(54)
3 Bristol City	32	10	4	3	35	13	4	5	8	17	21	51	(52)
4 Bury	29	10	4	0	25	6	4	5	6	18	23	51	(43)
5 Crewe	31	12	1	2	30	8	4	1	11	12	28	50	(42)
6 Stockport	30	8	4	3	21	11	5	5	5	22	23	48	(43)
7 Millwall	32	10	2	4	23	15	3	7	6	18	25	48	(41)
8 Burnley	33	11	2	5	35	21	2	6	7	12	17	47	(47)
9 Chesterfld	30	7	5	3	16	12	6	3	6	11	11	47	(27)
10 Walsall	31	9	5	2	24	12	4	2	9	13	21	46	(37)
11 Wrexham	29	7	5	1	24	17	4	3	4	12	14	48	(36)
12 Watford	29	5	7	2	13	10	5	3	1	16	11	46	(29)
13 Blackpool	31	7	6	2	27	14	3	6	7	13	19	42	(40)
14 Bournemth	35	6	5	6	15	16	5	4	9	15	21	42	(31)
15 Gillingham	32	8	3	5	25	19	3	5	8	12	23	41	(37)
16 Shrewsbury	33	7	6	5	23	22	3	4	8	20	28	40	(43)
17 Plymouth	32	5	8	3	16	15	4	4	8	21	29	39	(37)
18 Preston	33	8	4	4	21	16	3	2	12	12	27	39	(33)
19 Bristol R	32	8	4	3	25	17	1	7	9	9	19	38	(34)
20 York	32	5	3	7	18	22	4	4	9	15	28	34	(33)
21 Peterboro	32	4	6	6	29	26	3	5	8	15	28	32	(44)
22 Wycombe	31	7	3	6	15	13	1	4	10	14	30	31	(29)
23 Notts Co	32	3	6	6	14	16	2	4	11	9	26	25	(23)
24 Rotherham	32	4	6	7	13	17	0	5	10	12	31	23	(25)

THIRD DIVISION

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Carlisle	32	12	2	2	27	13	7	6	3	22	16	65	(49)
2 Fulham	34	10	3	4	32	17	9	4	4	26	17	64	(58)
3 Wigan	32	12	1	2	35	14	7	5	5	25	23	63	(60)
4 Swansea	35	10	3	4	26	12	6	3	9	20	28	54	(46)
5 Cambs Utd	33	10	2	4	25	18	6	4	7	19	25	54	(44)
6 Colchester	34	8	8	1	29	15	4	8	5	20	21	52	(49)
7 Chester	33	8	5	3	24	12	6	5	6	15	19	52	(39)
8 Northmptn	33	11	3	4	36	14	3	5	7	17	21	50	(53)
9 Cardiff	33	9	1	7	26	20	6	4	6	16	20	50	(42)
10 Scarboro	34	7	8	3	26	21	5	5	6	22	22	49	(48)
11 Lincoln	34	7	8	3	26	20	5	2	9	23	35	46	(49)
12 Mansfield	34	5	6	5	15	13	6	7	5	22	21	46	(37)
13 Hull	33	7	6	3	20	17	3	5	8	11	17	44	(31)
14 Torquay	33	9	3	6	20	14	3	4	8	14	23	43	(34)
15 Scunthrpe	32	9	1	6	31	29	3	4	7	14	21	41	(45)
16 L Orient	35	8	6	3	20	11	2	5	11	12	27	41	(32)
17 Rochdale	33	6	6	4	21	16	2	9	6	17	25	39	(38)
18 Barnet	32	5	8	3	22	15	3	6	7	10	18	38	(32)
19 Hartlepool	34	5	6	6	24	26	5	1	11	13	25	37	(37)
20 Hereford	35	5	5	7	21	19	4	4	10	18	33	36	(38)
21 Exeter	34	6	5	6	19	19	3	3	11	13	29	35	(32)
22 Darlington	33	7	4	5	28	20	2	3	12	19	41	34	(47)
23 Doncaster	33	5	4	6	17	17	3	2	13	17	40	30	(34)
24 †Brighton	34	7	5	5	30	22	1	2	14	9	33	29	(39)

†Brighton have been deducted two points

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

DUNFERMLINE (2)	3	ABERDEEN	(0) 0
Petrie 42, Britton 45, Smith 80		5,636	
HEARTS (3)	3	RAITH	(2) 2
Weir 24, McCann 35, 37		Craig 4, Mallaidi 41	
10,341			
KILMARNOCK (1)	2	DUNDEE UTD	(1) 3
Mahon 3 (og), Wright 69		McGowan 45, 86, 75	
6,054			
MOTHERWELL (0)	0	CELTIC	(1) 1
12,131		Cadete 10	

Yesterday

RANGERS (1)	3	HIBERNIAN	(0) 1
Gough 3, Albertz 49 (pen)		Dennis 54	
Laudrup 68		47,618	

Sent off: D Elliot (Hibernian) 75

FIRST DIVISION

AIRDRIE (1)	1	EAST FIFE	(1) 1
Eadie 44		Dyer 19	
1,138			
CLYDEBANK (1)	1	STIRLING	(1) 2
Brown 7		*Hartarsson 22*, A Paterson 85	
701			
DUNDEE (1)	1	G MORTON	(0) 0
O'Driscoll 27		2,264	
FALKIRK (2)	2	PARTICK	(1) 1
McAllister 33, 38		Stirling 4 (pen)	
3,181			
ST MIRREN (2)	2	ST JOHNSTN	(1) 1
Foster 27, Turner 44		McAnespie 38	
		4,211	

Sent off: S Watson (St Mirren) 48, S Tosh (St Johnstn) 48

SECOND DIVISION

BERWICK (1)	1	STENHOUSEMUIR	(0) 0
Clegg 10		326	
BRECHIN (1)	1	AYR	(0) 1
Buick 20		Smith 77	
434			

Sent off: D George (Ayr) 78

HAMILTON (0)	4	CLYDE	(0) 0
Ritchie 49, 73, McIntosh 51, McFarlane 86		856	

Sent off: M O'Neil (Clyde) 24

QUEEN OF SOUTH (0)	4	DUMBARTON	(0) 0
Bryce 56, 74, 76, 77		908	

Sent off: W Wilson (Dumbarton) 80

STRANRAER (1)	1	LIVINGSTON	(0) 1
Higgins 35		Bailey 79	
622			

THIRD DIVISION

ALLOA (0)	0	ARBROATH	(0) 2
		McKraw 52 (pen), McCarron 71	
COWDENBTH (0)	0	MONTROSE	(1) 1
203		MacDonald 39	
INVERNESS CT (0)	1	FORFAR	(0) 1
Stewart 84		*Mann 50*	
2,567			

POSTPONED: Ross County v Queen's Park.

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: East Stirling 1 Albion 4.

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

ALTRINCHM (0)	2	TELFORD	(1) 3
Tiery 68, Doherty 89		Gray 45, Fowler 48 (pen), Langford 54	
714			
BATH (0)	0	MACCLSFLD	(2) 3
956		Wood 25, Byrne 29, Askey 65	

Sent off: J Nicol (Bath) 56, M Davis (Bath) 70

BROMSGROVE (0)	0	WOKING	(1) 3
891		Walker 6, 54, Jackson 49	
GATESHEAD (1)	1	RUSHDEN & D	(0) 0
Proudlock 38		632	
HALIFAX (1)	3	FARNBOROUGH	(0) 0
Brook 12, Horsfield 80, Dax 71 (og)		694	
HAYES (2)	5	SLOUGH	(0) 0
Randall 6, 37, 62 (pen), Hall 55, Goodliffe 77 (pen)		768	

Sent off: G Hercules (Slough) 61, D Simpson (Slough) 75

HEDNESFORD (0)	2	MORECAMBE	(0) 1
O'Connor 58, Strett 78		Cereste 54	
		1,467	
KETTERING (2)	3	KIDDERMNSTR	(1) 1
Lyne 2, Norman 12 (pen), Lynch 50		Weir 45	

Sent off: S Stawcon (Kettering) 67

NORTHWICH (0)	0	WELLING	(0) 0
877			
SOUTHPORT (0)	0	DOVER	(0) 1
935		Straus 81	
STALYBRIDGE (0)	0	STEVENAGE	(1) 3
735		Cogshlan 40, Soleman 55, Browne 80	

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Macclsfld	31	10	3	3	29	16	8	3	3	24	12	63
2 Kiddermnstr	31	11	3	3	38	14	6	3	5	21	18	54
3 Stevenage	28	10	3	1	26	14	6	5	3	21	16	52
4 Yeovil	31	9	4	3	22	12	5	5	5	20	25	51
5 Hednesford	27	8	4	2	29	7	6	3	4	18	18	46
6 Woking	27	7	4	3	30	17	5	4	4	20	17	44
7 Morecambe	28	7	2	4	24	15	6	3	5	25	22	44
8 Farnborough	28	6	4	4	25	21	6	4	4	20	16	44
9 Telford	33	5	6	6	19	25	7	2	7	21	24	44
10 Southport	27	6	3	5	18	19	5	4	4	16	17	40
11 Slough	32	6	5	5	37	26	4	3	8	13	27	38
12 Stalybridge	30	7	2	6	24	19	4	3	8	14	22	38
13 Kettering	29	8	4	3	27	13	4	3	8	15	29	37
14 Dover	31	6	6	3	23	22	3	4	9	17	30	35
15 Welling	27	6	5	3	21	15	3	4	6	20	26	32
16 Altrincham	29	5	4	5	18	17	3	7	7	17	27	33
17 Gateshead	29	4	4	7	21	21	4	4	6	17	24	32
18 Hayes	30	6	5	4	20	16	2	3	9	13	26	32
19 Halifax	27	6	3	5	26	27	2	4	6	11	24	31
20 Bromsgrove	31	5	3	8	23	26	3	1	13	9	30	28
21 Bath	32	5	5	7	16	22	1	5	11	19	47	28
22 Rushden & D	28	3	5	5	15	16	3	2	10	20	29	25



Walter Bonacina, left, of Atalanta, tackles Youri Djorkaeff, of Internazionale, during their Italian League match which Inter won 2-0. Photograph: Carlo Fumagalli

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: Altrincn 2 Barrow 3; Bamber Bridge 1 Winsford 2; Boston 0 Hyde 0; Chorley 0 Frickley 1; Colwyn Bay 3 Buxton 4; Emley 3 Accrington Stanley 1; Guiseley 1 Gainsborough 0; Lancaster 2 Knowsley 2; Leek 4 Blyth Spartans 0; Marine 2 Bishop Auckland 3; Runcorn 1 Spennymoor 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leek Town	29	20	5	4	56	24	65
Barrow	35	18	8	9	57	38	62
Hyde Utd	30	15	12	3	68	35	57
Guiseley	31	15	7	9	46	35	52
Boston Utd	28	14	9	5	49	28	51
Blyth Spartans	30	15	5	10	48	34	50
Emley	29	13	8	8	54	40	47
Marine	29	12	11	6	36	29	47
Gainsborough	28	13	6	9	47	29	45
Bishop A'land	26	11	10	5	44	28	43
Accrington S	32	11	8	13	54	61	41
Runcorn	28	10	10	8	43	43	40
Chorley	31	11	6	14	46	46	39
Winsford Utd	32	10	9	13	41	43	39
Knowsley	32	10	10	12	46	61	39
Frickley	28	10	6	12	48	52	36
Spennymoor	29	8	9	12	41	38	33
Colwyn Bay	30	8	9	13	44	52	33
Lancaster	26	7	6	13	39	46	27
Altrincn Town	29	4	10	15	33	56	22
Witton Alb	28	4	8	16	25	55	20
Bamber Bridge	27	5	4	18	33	68	19
Buxton	27	2	8	19	16	59	12

FIRST DIVISION: Bradford P A 3

FOOTBALL

Vale give Francis cause to rue lost time

Birmingham City 1
Port Vale 2

BY RICHARD HOBSON

NEVER go back. Trevor Francis, the Birmingham City manager, must have pondered the wisdom of the adage during this Nationwide League first division match yesterday, having watched his side lose for the fifth time in succession and for the first occasion at home to Port Vale this century.

They were booed off the pitch by the lowest crowd of the season at St Andrew's, 13,192. The reaction might have been more favourable had Paul Musselwhite, the Port Vale goalkeeper, not produced a marvellous double save from Paul Furlong and Nicky Forster close to full-time. Yet Birmingham were too indecisive at the back, rushed everywhere else and so



Francis: decline

obviously lacking in confidence.

The feeling that Francis could make a similar impact in management as he had as a precociously gifted player here through the Seventies has long since dissipated among the rank-and-file supporters and the yellowing photographs framed on walls inside the ground of the youthful striker serve only to emphasise the decline of the club.

Eleven years have passed since Birmingham last played in the top flight, yet Francis believes that the prospects for the longer-term are encouraging. A flotation within the next fortnight will add a further £4 million to the £1 million he has to venture into the transfer market.

"We have got the foundation of a very competitive side and I will be bringing in hopefully four or five players who, in my opinion, are from the top end of the market and will help to *turn us into* possibly the best team in the league," Francis wrote in his programme notes.

After the game he was less sanguine. "I do not know how a side with the players we have can lose at home to Port Vale," he said. "There are four or five players in this team who I cannot recognise from a month ago."

Francis has pledged to buy 40,000 of the 15p shares and Steve Bruce, his captain, 50,000. Bruce implored his side to greater efforts yesterday but his complexion had turned pink with rage by the time he headed against a post in the 79th minute.

This time last year he was involved at a club chasing the FA Cup and FA Carling Premiership double; twelve months on he is trying to avoid relegation into the second division with a side knocked out of the Cup by Wrexham. Yet the early stages here augured well for the home side. Paul Devlin converted a penalty won through his own initiative in the eighth minute. Industrious and tricky, he stole a yard on Dean Glover to fall under the tackle and thumped the resulting kick beyond Musselwhite.

That galvanised Vale, who drew level eight minutes later. Well though Andy Porter struck his shot, it stemmed from an awful mistake in the Birmingham defence. Martin Grainger had time to clear cleanly but instead kicked straight to Porter, who responded mercilessly.

Birmingham exerted some pressure shortly before the interval, when Martyn O'Connor and Kenny Brown went close, but the loss of Anders Limpar to a groin strain was to prove costly. Devlin moved out wide and became less effective.

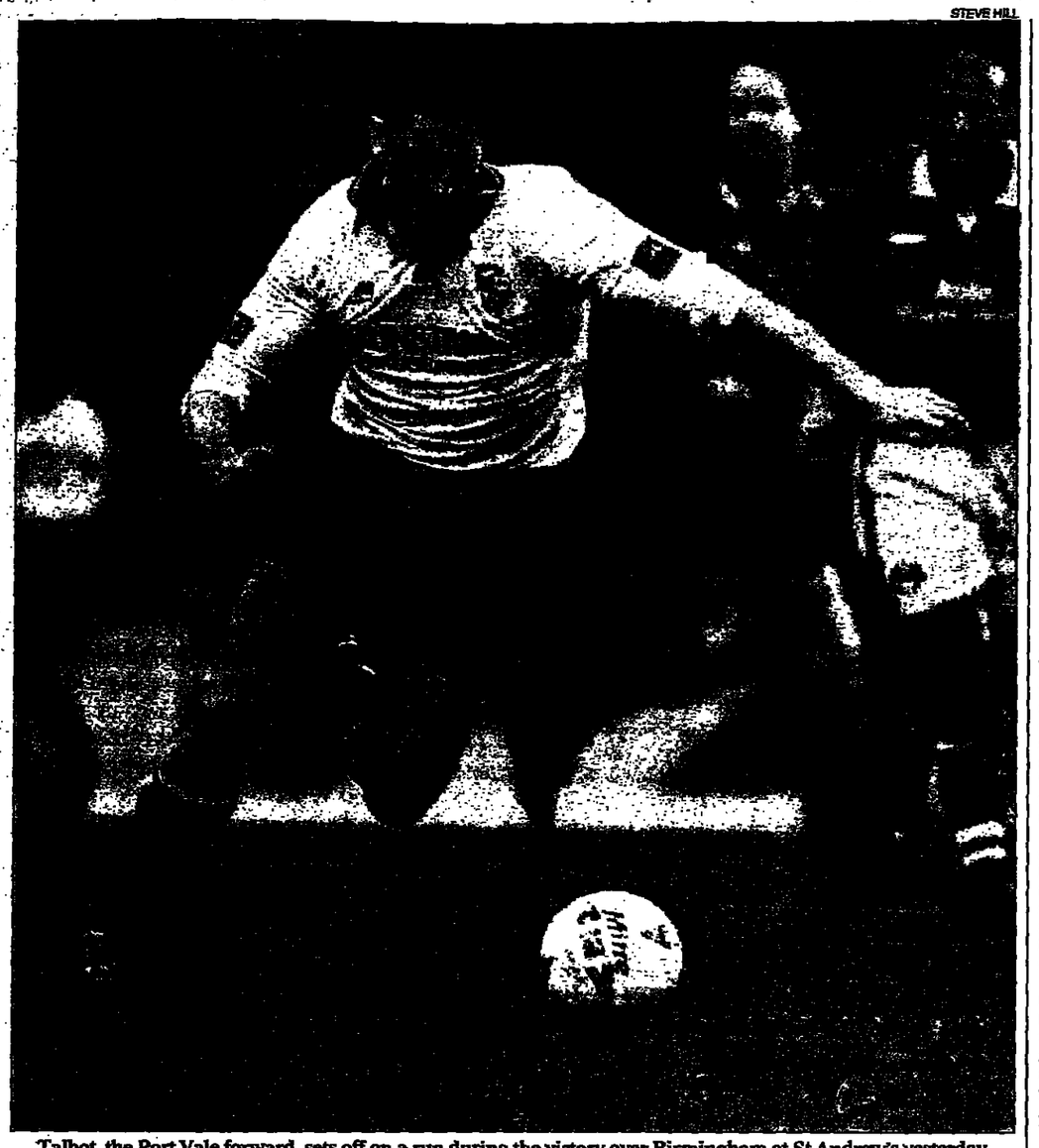
The winning goal came eight minutes after the restart and again there was a question-mark about Grainger. Glover moved ahead of him and stooped to head in Steve Guppy's corner. Vale did not have another opportunity but they hung on to move up into ninth spot, two points away from the play-off zone.

BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): J Bennett — K Brown, S Bruce, G Ablett — M Grainger (sub: M Johnson, 80min) — C Holland, B Horne (sub: P Furlong, 80), M O'Connor, A Limpar (sub: N Forster, 45) — M Newell, P Devlin.

PORT VALE (4-4-2): P Musselwhite — A Hill, N Aspin, D Glover, D Stokes — J McCarthy, A Porter, I Bogie, S Guppy — S Talbot (sub: R Walker, 75), A Naylor (sub: M Foyle, 81).

Referee: R Harris.

STEVE HILL



Talbot, the Port Vale forward, sets off on a run during the victory over Birmingham at St Andrew's yesterday

Bristol spoil a football fantasy

Russell Kempson has a daydream as Bristol City beat Crewe Alexandra 3-0

AT THE START of the 2006-07 season, two months after England lose 3-1 to the Terry Venables-inspired Tahiti in their World Cup semi-final in Düsseldorf, the face of domestic football has hardly changed. Manchester United try to defend their FA Grolsch Premiership title, Liverpool set out to win, again unsuccessfully, the European Asti Spumante Superleague, and Wimbledon attempt to retain the Hooch League Cup.

Joseph Maserawi, one of 280 Africans playing in the Premiership, doubts he can emulate his 34-goal tally of the previous campaign; Gordon Taylor, the Professional Footballers' Association life president, demands a minimum £100,000 a week for his members; and Chelsea sign Gianluca di Roberto, completing their 11-strong Italian first team at Stamford Bridge.

Not much has altered, either, in the Football League. In the Cheltenham and Gloucester second division north, Dario Gradi, 65, the Crewe Alexandra manager and cousin of di Roberto, begins his third ten-year contract at the club. Crewe narrowly missed promotion to the first division central three months earlier, but had sold their best players to Liverpool, their parent club, to stay alive. They were still fortunate; one of the little league's 58 survivors from the 20th century.

In 1997, back in the real world, Crewe continue to carry the flag for the dreamers — those who do a sound job and produce talent in abundance, but are forced to release their prized assets to maintain the status quo. They will never threaten the big boys, and know it, but their vital role should never be forgotten amid the unseemly multimillion-pound scramble above.

Crewe have as cultured a midfield as anywhere in the lower reaches. Robbie Savage, Gareth Whalley and Danny Murphy, though tender in age and experience, caress the ball with loving care. One-touch or two-touch, short-range or long-range, they appear to know instinctively where their best-placed team-mate is positioned. Possession is treasured, not to be discarded lightly.

Savage, 22, is a Wales international; Whalley, 23, has recently spent a week on trial, albeit none too impressively, at Anfield; and Murphy, 19, the jewel in the crown, has been courted by Kenny Dalglish at Newcastle. Gradi, in his fourteenth year at Gresty Road, knows the score.

"Gareth probably still had Liverpool on his mind," Gradi said, after Crewe's unlikely second-half collapse against Bristol City, in the Nationwide League second division, at Ashton Gate on Saturday. "He could be gone by the transfer deadline, but who knows where? There are other clubs involved. Perhaps we are not good enough to go up this season."

Unimpressed by the pretty stuff, City competed more vigorously after a goalless, relatively sterile first half. Efforts from Goater, his eighteenth of the season, and Agostino, plus an own goal from Westwood, completed a flattering victory that enabled them to leapfrog Crewe in the promotion conundrum.

City will also probably exist in the year 2006, long after the meek and mild have crumbled. An enlightened, progressive board and a catchment area of 1.5 million, even allowing for the alternative delights of Bristol Rovers, should ensure it. As long as the likes of Crewe accompany them, English football is safe into the next millennium.

BRISTOL CITY (4-4-2): S Naylor — P Allen, L Carey, S Taylor, D Barnard — J Bent (sub: G Goodridge, 90min), G Owers, M Hewlett, B Tinnion — S Goater, K Nugent (sub: P Agostino, 73).

CREWE ALEXANDRA (3-5-2): J Kearton — C Lightfoot, A Westwood, S Macaulay — W Barr, D Murphy, R Savage, G Whalley, L Unsworth — F Tierney, S Garvey.

Referee: P Taylor

Northern polish no match for Midland dedication

Barnsley 1
Wolverhampton W 3

BY KEITH PIKE

THAT almost as many people were watching this game on video screens at Molineux as were shoe-horned into Oakwell told Barnsley all they needed to know about the superior resources ranged against them. Barnsley duly lost the battle, and history suggests that the war will be beyond them, too.

Not that Danny Wilson's team played badly. They enjoyed perhaps 70 per cent of the possession; their build-ups were neat, attractive, considered ... and repelled continuously by a Wolverhampton side too committed, too streetwise, to allow Barnsley back into a game that was effectively settled inside 23 minutes.

By then Wolves were 2-0 up and their 4,500-strong travelling support was wallowing in the performance of an expensively assembled unit, and the security of a substitutes' bench featuring the likes of Thomas and Goodman.

Wolves supplanted Barnsley in second place in the Nationwide League first division by courtesy of their tenth away win of the season. Mark McGhee, their manager, said that his plan had been to attack, but even he could not have expected the ferocity of their opening salvo.

Wolves were ahead inside 90 seconds as Bull, freed by Roberts, burst clear in typical rampaging fashion to score his sixth goal in six games and No 286 of a phenomenal career. Alas for Barnsley, Smith then rounded Jones and crossed deep for Roberts to double the lead.

There appeared no way back until the 52nd minute, when Stowell's excellent save from Redfearn's header was negated by Sheridan's strike on the follow-up. Having left open a door, though, Wolves slammed it shut almost immediately when Froggatt curled in a free kick surely meant as a cross.

Wolves were content thereafter to put ten men behind the ball. "You have to give them credit," Wilson said. "They are a very powerful side." Has the Barnsley bubble burst? "Everybody will say so, but we have got a lot of self-belief in this club." They will need every ounce of it.

BARNSLEY (3-5-2): D Watson — A Moses, P Shirtliff (sub: M Bullock, 46min), A de Zeeuw — N Eaden (sub: A Liddell, 84), J Bosancic (sub: C Marcelle, 64), D Sheridan, N Redfearn, S Jones — J Handrie, P Wilkinson.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (3-5-2): M Stowell — K Curle, M Atkins, M Venus — J Smith, N Emblen (sub: G Thomas, 82), S Osborn, S Corica (sub: A Thompson, 67), S Froggatt — I Roberts (sub: D Goodman, 88), S Bull.

Referee: W Burns

Hodgson is left to ponder the long road ahead

Exeter City 3
Darlington 2

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

THE return part of Darlington's 700-mile round trip to St James' Park, Exeter, on Saturday, must have seemed interminable if the mood of David Hodgson, the manager, immediately after this game was anything to go by.

At least the trip, which will cost the club the best part of £2,000, is no longer likely to bankrupt them. "We came to an arrangement over our income tax and VAT which has relieved our situation, and we are trading in profit," Ken Lavery, the general manager, said.

Exeter City, too, seem to have survived a typical South Coast crisis of debt and threatened homelessness, but both clubs still face the tricky business of retaining League status. The trap door to the Vauxhall Conference (in which Darlington spent the 1989-90 season) has creaked open in recent weeks. "There are a lot of clubs in the mire," Garry Bannister, the Darlington assistant manager, agreed. "Brighton have dragged teams ahead of us, like Exeter, back into it."

Nevertheless, anyone expecting a dour relegation struggle would have been pleasantly surprised. Darlington had key defenders missing through suspension and injury, and it showed; they were behind after four minutes when Bailey headed into an unguarded net.

Exeter's excuse for the calamities that allowed Darlington to draw level and take the lead as, first, Atkinson and then Barbara scored, was harder to find. However, they equalised with the best goal of the game, a diving header by Rowbotham from Minett's cross.

The fact that there was only one more goal, Crowe poking the ball home, was due to Exeter's inability to turn pressure into a more convincing scoreline. But then this was their first win of 1997, having scored only one goal in six previous games, which made it all the worse for Hodgson.

Even his side's goals failed to please him. "They were individual goals, not created from a football point of view. We didn't defend, we didn't attack. If you don't do that, you're going to get beat," he said.

EXETER CITY (3-5-2): A Bayes — J Richardson, N Blake, D Hughes — J Minett, J Rees, B McConnell, D Bailey, G Rice (sub: L Baddeley, 34min) — G Crowe (sub: C Myers, 63), D Rowbotham.

DARLINGTON (4-3-1-2): T Mollanen — S Shaw (sub: D Hunt, 89), R Hope, A Read, R Kelly — B Atkinson, L Brydon, G Naylor (sub: G Tynham, 83) — D Barbara (sub: P Robinson, 61) — D Roberts, R Blake.

Referee: K Leach.

Rangers suffering from superiority complex

KEVIN McCARRA



Scottish commentary

SUPERIORITY can be a dreadful burden. Rangers groaned beneath the weight of it at Ibrox yesterday, knowing that they should beat Hibernian, yet finding that the match was reluctant to bend to their will. Walter Smith's side eventually won 3-1, but the third goal, stroked through Jim Leighton's legs by Brian Laudrup, did not arrive until the 67th minute.

It came, too, during a period when even the most sober observer was beginning to believe that Hibernian, who had been 2-0 down, might equalise. Darren Jackson, indeed, ought to have levelled the score at 2-2 but, when presented with a clear opportunity, headed meekly into Andy Goram's arms.

While such incidents must torture Smith, they may also give the Rangers manager a certain satisfaction. In them he finds the evidence to refute the popular belief that he and his players hold sinecures. In fact, they do have a job on their hands. Although Rangers are unlikely to be denied over the course of a whole season, they encounter intransigence on many occasions.

Should the Ibrox staff wish to form a support group for those with an abundance of cash and a shortage of appreciation, they might consider inviting their principal rivals. At Fir Park on Saturday, Celtic had a jaw-clenching, brow-furrowing afternoon before defeating Motherwell 1-0. The goal came after 11 minutes, but the Glasgow side's hopes of adding to it dwindled as an uncooperative pitch and strong winds subdued skill.

It was a careworn victory, bestowed on them by Jorge Cadete. The winner was his 27th goal of the season and, once again, the cries of celebration mingled with claims for offside. The proof, on television, that the forward's timing had, in fact, been perfect was, however, equally familiar.

A meticulously executed run had ensured that a Motherwell defender, Mitchell van der Gaag, was still behind Cadete as Jackie McNamara played the crucial pass. The Portugal forward has been denied a few valid goals by linesmen's decisions and it appears that he will have to accept that he has the cruel gift of being a better judge than the average official.

All the exertions of the weekend leave the top of the Bell's Scottish League premier division unaltered, with Rangers maintaining their seven-point advantage over Celtic. The leaders were galvanised yesterday by an irresistibly skilful performance from Laudrup.

"Other than a couple of chaps in balaclavas with baseball bats knocking on his door, there's not a lot you can do about him," Jim Duffy, the Hibernian manager, said. The Dane was rarely menaced on the field, but David Elliot, the visitors' left back, was sent off, in the 74th minute, for a reckless tackle on Derek McInnes, a substitute.

His departure dispelled any small doubts about the outcome, but Hibernian had earlier succeeded in bringing uncertainty to the game. While Rangers opened the scoring with a goal in the third minute, from Richard Gough, and missed many opportunities, with Laudrup the most noteworthy culprit, the Edinburgh side possessed resources of their own.

Chris Jackson hit a post and Darren Jackson was to have a penalty appeal ignored before the interval. Even after Jorg Albertz, in the 48th minute, had added a second goal from the penalty kick awarded for Shaun Dennis's foul on Gordon Durie, it only took six minutes for Dennis to atone by heading into the Rangers net.

Despite their remorselessness, the champions, rather startlingly, have not been the most consistent premier division side in 1997. With an undeserved 3-2 victory at Kilmarnock, in which Ray McKinnon fashioned a hat-trick out of three free-kicks, Dundee United ensured that their past ten League matches comprise nine wins and a draw.

A wretched Aberdeen, by contrast, have failed to beat the opposition in any of their previous 14 games. Chroniclers also report that a 3-0 defeat by Dunfermline Athletic was their worst result at East End Park for 28 years. Faced with doleful statistics and confronted by resentful supporters, Aberdeen is a club under siege.



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Hartson sounds the charge

JOHN HARTSON has a double objective as he prepares for his home debut for West Ham United against Tottenham Hotspur tonight. Hartson is aware that the size of his transfer fee — £3.5 million — has been widely criticised and also that his disciplinary record is under close examination.

Hartson was booked at Derby last week in his first game for West Ham since signing from Arsenal. The booking earned him a two-match suspension that means he will miss part of West Ham's effort to avoid relegation.

However, the Wales forward, said: "I am trying to work on it but if people are asking me to pull out of 50-50 tackles then I just cannot do that because it takes away my natural game. I fight for the cause and go in for every ball I think I can win. I am aggressive but there is no malice and I have never gone into a tackle in my life to hurt anybody."

Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, will team Hartson up with Paul Kitson, another new expensive arrival. Hartson said: "I don't set the fee, it has nothing to do with me. It doesn't matter if I cost £10 million or £1 million, I just put on the shirt and give 100 per cent and do my best.

"But it gives you confidence when a club is prepared to pay a lot of money for you and it shows they believe in what you can do. Now I want to score the goals to keep West Ham in the Premier League."

Teddy Sheringham, the England forward, may return for Spurs after scoring twice in a practice match last week. John Scales has also recovered from a hamstring injury, but is still well short of match-fitness. Gerry Francis, the Spurs manager, said: "It is very frustrating going into your dressing room and seeing the likes of Sheringham, Armstrong, and Scales all standing there, but knowing that you can't pick them.

"We have done well to hang on in the top half of the table and our problem has been scoring goals. Teddy and Chris are still our leading scorers with six goals apiece and they have been out for most of the year.

"West Ham have struggled to score goals too, but they have spent a lot of money on strikers Paul Kitson and John Hartson and will be looking to put that right."

Yakka the spur for Whitby

Whitby Town 5
Mossley 1

BY WALTER GAMMIE

PAUL PITMAN, universally known as Yakka, left the Turnbull Ground on Saturday with a tankard, an armful of beer and the broadest of grins. Two goals and a man-of-the-match award — all in another day's work for Whitby Town's extraordinary striker.

Yakka, the nickname traditionally given to pitmen, had helped to sweep the Federation Brewery Northern League side into the semi-finals of the FA Carlsberg Vase. Well served by the enterprising pass-and-move philosophy of Harry Dunn, the manager, and the scalpel-like incisions from set pieces by Logan and Toman, Pitman missed a couple as well — one shot hitting a post.

"Some players when they miss disappear for ten minutes," Dunn said. "Paul's always straight back there making more chances."

Pitman's goal tally for the season now stands at 37, his Whitby career total at 322. A cablelayer from Hartlepool, 50 miles to the north, Pitman, 32, has resolutely stayed put. "They look after me," he said.

The damage was done in the second half after Mossley, the North West Counties League side, had gone into the interval level at 1-1, Crane's equaliser making up for a fumble by Bates that had gifted a goal for Whitby to Pearson.

In quick succession, Logan's dummy helped Toman to score direct from a free kick, and then Toman put the ball behind the defence for Pitman to pounce. Goodchild, with a glancing header, and Pitman's second, laid on by Williams, sealed a rousing triumph.

It might be Whitby's year. They are well placed to heal the wound of the FA edict that condemned them to stay in the Northern League after a tug-of-war with the Northern Premier League when they won the title in 1993, as well as putting to rights their losing Wembley appearance to Hendon in the 1965 Amateur Cup final.

WHITBY TOWN (3-5-2): D Campbell — D Goodchild, L Pearson, M Cook — I Williams, N Hodgson, A Toman, J Borthwick, D Logan — G Robinson, P Pitman.

MOSSLEY (4-4-2): R Bates — M Welsh, S Kay, J Birch (sub: C Lomas, 67min), A Burns — M Jones, D Hamilton (sub: W Joynes, 74), B Hughes, S Jordan (sub: M Murray, 67) — T Crane, L Cunliffe.

Referee: R Furnandiz.

هكذا من الاصل

RACING

Sheikh voices unease over prize-money

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

BRITAIN'S poor prize-money was attacked by one of racing's staunchest supporters when Sheikh Hamdan Al-Maktoum, deputy ruler of Dubai and three times the leading owner, warned that the rewards neither encourage nor justify further bloodstock investment in this country.

In a message with serious implications for Flat racing, the sheikh called on bookmakers and the sport's administrators to address the issue. He questioned why bookmakers did not invest more in the product, the profits from which have allowed them to diversify into other business ventures. And he is frustrated at the cost of financing his extensive racing interests despite two decades of success on the racetrack.

The sheikh, a brother of Sheikh Mohammed, the world's largest and most successful owner/breeder, said: "We were first attracted by the traditions of British racing — plus the fact that English as a language is familiar. But you cannot go on investing all the time. Owning and breeding racehorses costs a great deal of money. No one can rely on the sport to make big profits, but you should certainly be able to hope to cover your expenses."

He indicated that the financial impasse should be resolved without further assistance from Westminster. "You cannot keep going back to the Government for more support," he told *Gulf Today*, a newspaper circulated in Dubai.

"We see prize-money stagnating while basic costs — such as training fees, transportation and veterinary bills — are all rising. The difficulties are plain to see. From my point of view, I feel the solution has to come from within the sport, between administrators and bookmakers."

Britain, which offered £36 million in Flat prize-money last year, has the lowest reward-to-cost ratio among major racing nations. Unlike its competitors, Britain does not operate an off-course pool-betting monopoly. The British Horseracing Board (BHB) sought to increase prize-money levels last year when lobbying for a reduction in General Betting Duty. But the Chancellor offered no respite in his November Budget, prompting some owners to criticise BHB policy of close cooperation with bookmakers. The sheikh's comments add weight to that argument.

Tristram Ricketts, chief executive of the BHB, last night echoed some of Sheikh Hamdan's frustrations. "We share his concerns," Ricketts said. "We have achieved steady increases, but unless the government can be persuaded to act, we cannot make a quantum leap in that direction."

Sheikh Hamdan owns the Shadwell Estate, in Norfolk, where his bloodstock holdings are based. Twice successful in the Derby, with Nashwan in 1989 and Erhaab five years later, he has never publicly expressed opinions on British racing's finances.

The Maktoum family has become more prudent in its bloodstock operations. Last year it secured a presence on the Racehorse Owners' Association council and installed John Gosden, the Newmarket trainer, to monitor events on its behalf. Sheikh Hamdan's representations will add fresh urgency to the prize-money debate.

Dunwoody hurt by reaction to fall

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

RICHARD DUNWOODY, the former champion jockey, yesterday criticised racecourse medical procedures as he recovered from an injury which threatens his riding at the Cheltenham Festival. Dunwoody was upset at the time it took for him to receive professional medical attention after a fall from See More Business in the Racing Post Chase at Kempton on Saturday.

Dunwoody, 33, is in the intensive care unit of Ashford Hospital after suffering a hairline fracture of the sternum, or breast-bone. He is hoping that he will be fit to return for the Festival which begins on March 11.

Dunwoody was unhappy that the first people on the scene did not seem to know the correct course of action.

Nap: STORMY CORAL
(4.10 Newcastle)
Next best: Love Me Do
(2.25 Southwell)

He ordered them away while he awaited other medical attendants. "The first person to attend tried to move me and caused a lot more pain. This is why I asked to be left alone," Dunwoody said. "I was disappointed about the length of time before receiving professional attention and I will be consulting with Michael Caulfield [of the Jockeys' Association] and Dr Michael Turner [the Jockey Club's medical adviser]."

Peter McNeile, Kempton's clerk of the course, said after the race that there had been telephone calls from Channel 4 viewers concerned about the length of time it took for Dunwoody to receive medical attention. "The ambulance crew tried to approach him three times and each time he told them to go away," McNeile said.

However complete Dunwoody's recovery, his injury could hardly have come at a worse time: demand for his services at Cheltenham is at a premium. The jockey would have spent the next 12 days schooling possible mounts in advance of the Festival. His book of Cheltenham rides is invariably one of the most attractive.

As Dunwoody suffered at Kempton, Adrian Maguire, who has missed the last two Festivals, underlined the strength of his own Cheltenham hand when riding five winners on the seven-race card. Before steering Viking Flagship through his prep for the Queen Mother Champion Chase, Maguire rode Sanmartino to victory in the Dovecote Novices' Hurdle.

Sanmartino is unbeaten in three outings over timber and the Champion Hurdle remains an option for Khaled Abdulla's home-bred, who was not entirely convincing after he flattened the second-last hurdle. But the horse, travelling much the best at that stage, did no more than lose his concentration.

A sound surface would enhance his Champion Hurdle prospects, although David Nicholson, who trains the five-year-old, has deferred a decision for two weeks. Nicholson will be ably represented in the Triumph Hurdle by L'Opera, whose debut victory in the Voice Newspaper Adonis Hurdle was convincing.

It was a fruitful afternoon for Nicholson. After Maguire and Pharanear landed the Rendlesham Hurdle for the stable, the trainer was adamant that his Escartefigue, who was hampered in finishing third, would win the Stayers' Hurdle at Cheltenham. But the Racing Post Chase eluded Nicholson's clutches when his three runners filled the minor placings behind Mudahim, trained by Jenny Pitman. On a day of significant Grand National pointers, Mudahim was cut to 33-1 from 50-1 by Ladbrokes.

The shears were more severely deployed in the case of Suny Bay, who galloped away with the Greenalls Grand National Trial at Haydock on Saturday. Trained by Charlie Brooks, the grey dropped to 16-1 from 25-1 for Aintree as Lo Stregone, among the market leaders, trailed home last of the five runners. His trainer, Tom Tate, is to have Lo Stregone blood-tested later this week after an inspection yesterday failed to account for his poor performance. He is now a 25-1 chance for the National.

JULIAN HERBERT / ALLSPORT



Mudahim, far side, duels with King Lucifer on his way to winning the Racing Post Chase at Kempton on Saturday

TRAINERS

	Ht	2nd	3rd	Prize money	Level stakes
M Pipe	143	81	73	2	+33.51
D Nicholson	65	49	42	2	-28.70
Mrs M Reveley	60	43	29	1	-10.54
K Bailey	53	45	31	17	-9.44
P Nicholls	45	39	22	2	-38.45
P Hobbs	45	34	37	11	-89.97
G Richards	41	24	10	1	-19.19
M Hammond	38	44	38	8	-140.22
N Twiston-Davies	37	37	20	2	-44.68

JOCKEYS

	Ht	2nd	3rd	Losing engagements	Level stakes
A P McCoy	132	93	52	8	-3.07
J Osborne	82	59	45	1	-15.67
A Maguire	80	72	60	1	-104.75
R Dunwoody	77	71	47	6	-80.93
R Johnson	66	39	55	8	-13.75
P Niven	61	38	32	1	+22.96
D Bridgwater	59	40	42	9	-45.30
A Dobbin	58	39	35	2	-3.03
N Williamson	58	43	46	15	-34.29

COMMENTARY

Developing strategy of courses for horses is essential

BY CHRIS BRASHER

LAST week this column was filled by Stanley Jackson, the managing director of the Racecourse Association (RCA). His job is to look after the interests of the 59 racecourses in Great Britain. They are courses for horses.

None of them would exist if it wasn't for the owners, trainers and jockeys who provide, train and ride the thoroughbred racehorse. The product which all 59 courses sell is the thrill of seeing thoroughbred compete against thoroughbred. So how many words did Mr Jackson devote to them, or to their owners, their trainers, their jockeys? Not one.

That is why I had to read his column again and again because to me it does not seem possible for any managing director to write about the state of his association or company, and about the state of his trade, without mentioning his product. But Mr Jackson achieved the impossible. And in so doing, he gave a clear message about the state of our sport: it is hopelessly divided.

Why must it be so? Why can't we put sectional interests on the back burner and concoct a dish with ingredients that blend into a delectation which will have the masses running to savour it?

After all, we have what I consider to be the most thrilling sport in the world. I did not fly to Atlanta last summer to see the Olympics; I shall not go to Wimbledon this summer.

But I did drive to Ludlow on the Monday before Christmas in a highly nervous state, expectation fluttering like those scarves which football fans fly from car windows along motorways on Saturdays. And I did wedge myself, elbows braced, into a corner to stop my binoculars wobbling from adrenalin agitation. And when my Maid For Adventure came galloping home ten lengths clear of the field, I did hug and kiss her trainer Henrietta Knight and only just restrained myself from doing the same to her husband, Terry Biddlecombe, one of the great National Hunt jockeys.

From which you will gather that I am addicted. Totally and hopelessly addicted. I started with jumpers who run when the ground is supposed to be soft, from October to April, and so found myself deprived of my addiction from May to September. Which was why I asked David Loder to buy me a horse we called Maid For Walking.

She took us to Royal Ascot and that year won more than all the Queen's horses put together. She is now cropping the blue grass of Kentucky and all her successors, horses which I have bought for the Flat and horses for the jumps, eat her winnings so fast that I will soon have to cut down and leave some of Mr Jackson's courses with even fewer runners.

Over the past few months there have been race meetings with six races and a total of 30 horses or fewer. The plain fact is that there is too much racing, too many courses and too many people taking too much out of the sport. There is the Government, which takes about £700 million in tax and VAT, seemingly oblivious of the fact that the British thoroughbred and our racing scene stand supreme in the world. Not for much longer, though, because we stand so low — just three off the bottom — in the global prize-money league.

Then there are the bookmakers who take at least £250 million out of the sport every year. And finally the racecourses, who declare a profit of £8 million; a profit which could be much higher if they were well run and made full use of their land.

And what do we, the owners, take? Nothing financially, only our pleasure. For every £1,000 we put into racing we lose £780. We are mugs and we are being mugged. But for not much longer. We need to see change, massive change. Above all we need to see some strong leadership.

NEWCASTLE

THUNDERER

2.10 NICHOLAS PLANT (nap)
2.40 In A Moment
3.10 Colonel In Chief
3.40 Nigel's Lad
4.10 Stormy Coral
4.40 Northern Squire

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.10 STORMY CORAL

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

2.10 JOHN J STRAKER CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,501: 2m 4f) (6 runners)

101 213/211- FORBIDDEN TIME 437 (F,6,5) (Mrs J Pauthenier) L Lungo 9-11-10 ..... R Supple 95
102 42/14-P3 VILLAGE REINDEER 18 (D,F,6,5) (J Chester) P Calver 10-11-3 ..... L Wyer 94
103 335/U72 NICHOLAS PLANT 13 (D,BF,F,5) (Mrs M Paterson) J Goldie 8-10-10 ..... G Cahill (5) 95
104 4-34064 SOLBA 16 (B,D,F,6,5) (R Anderson Green) C Parker 8-10-10 ..... D Parker 98
105 P215I-1 GROUSE-N-HEATHER 282 (F,5) (D Fairhalm) P Monteith 8-10-8 ..... A Dobbin 91
106 1-64PP3 POTATO MAN 10 (V,D,5) (C Foster) B Ellison 11-10-4 ..... B Storey 88

BETTING: 2-1 Forbidden Time, 3-1 Nicholas Plant, 9-2 Grouse-N-Heather, 5-1 Village Reindeer, 7-1 Solba, 8-1 Potato Man.

1996: NO CORRESPONDING MEETING

FORM FOCUS

FORBIDDEN TIME beat Farmer's Hoad 4l in 5-runner novice chase at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, good to firm), Dec 95. NICHOLAS PLANT beat Judicial Field 9l in 9-runner handicap chase at Ayr (2m 4f, good to soft) with VILLAGE REINDEER (3lb better off) 13l 3rd and SOLBA (3lb better off) 19l 4th. GROUSE-N-HEATHER beat Gone By 3½l in 4-runner handicap chase at Perth (2m, good to firm). POTATO MAN 20l 3rd of 4 in Dual Image in handicap chase here (2m 110yd, good). Selection: NICHOLAS PLANT

2.40 GREAT NORTH ROAD SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,057: 2m) (18 runners)

201 00-5P11 PALACE OF GOLD 12 (CD,F,6) (Mrs B Lunge) L Lungo 7-11-10 W Dowling (7) 89
202 433314 LATIN LEADER 66 (B,D,F,6) (R Anderson Green) C Parker 7-11-6 ..... D Parker 95
203 010-00P BARK'N'BITE 9 (D,6) (P Savill) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-5 ..... P Niven –
204 /86-6 GAELIC CHARM 41 (J Charlton) J Charlton 8-11-3 ..... K Johnson 88
205 58-500 THE FINAL SPARK 26 (Shropshire Saddles) G Richards 6-11-0 ..... A Dobbin –
206 005-35P BILL'S PRIDE 13 (Exors of W McKinlay) P Monteith 6-11-0 ..... M McKinney 91
207 15-6544 IN A MOMENT 24 (D,BF,5) (Mrs E Dresser) C Grant 6-10-9 ..... R Garritty 97
208 06/50-4 BLUE DOMAIN 45 (R Coggs) R Coggs 6-10-9 ..... Michael Brennan (3) 94
209 1R06-6P BRINCULATA 9 (F,6) (P Spottiswood) P Spottiswood 9-10-9 ..... B Storey –
210 04P000 SHARMOOR 2 (T Hazelhurst) Miss L Siddall 5-10-7 ..... A Thornton 83
211 F-60 PROMISE TO TRY 96 (M Barnes) M Barnes 5-10-7 ..... S Taylor (5) –
212 P6PP72 THE GREY TEXAN 882 (Mrs F Vesey) V Thompson 8-10-6 ..... D Bentley –
213 06/5-PP6 LIAM'S LOSS 18 (V) (N Enright) J Peace 5-10-0 ..... B Santhon (5) –
214 0/0065 OBVIOUS RISK 16 (Mrs K Woodhead) F Cairns 6-10-0 ..... Tristan Davidson (7) 95
215 P35/P60 CHARLVIC 21 (D Scott) W Cunningham 7-10-0 ..... L McGrath (7) 87
216 0P-5R00 MAWTHOORKEY 13 (B) (G G Racing) M Todhunter 7-10-0 ..... C McCormack (7) 87
217 P5-0000 COQUET GOLD 21 (Mrs F Walton) F Walton 6-10-0 ..... G Cahill –
218 P00 BEACON HILL LADY 16 (F Sellar) B Ellison 4-10-0 ..... N Horrocks (7) –

Long handicap: Civvies Risk 9-13, Charlvic 9-9, Mawthoorkey 9-7, Coquet Gold 9-7, Beacon Hill Lady 9-3.

BETTING: 9-4 Palace Of Gold, 5-1 Latin Leader, 7-1 The Final Spark, 8-1 Bark'N'Bite, 10-1 In A Moment, 12-1 Bill's Pride, 16-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

PALACE OF GOLD beat Brackenthwaite 1¼l in 19-runner conditional selling handicap hurdle over course and distance (good) on penultimate start with CHARLVIC (17lb better off) 22¾l 7th and COQUET GOLD (23lb better off) 64l 15th. LATIN LEADER beat Tall Measure 4l in 11-runner conditional selling handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m 4f, good) on penultimate start with MAWTHOORKEY (3lb better off) 6¼l 5th. GAELIC CHARM 14¼l 6th of 14 to Grange in novice hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f, good). IN A MOMENT 15l 4th of 14 to Yacht Club in conditional selling handicap hurdle at Catterick (2m 3f, good). BLUE DOMAIN 6l 4th of 12 to Trieasum in selling handicap hurdle at Musselburgh (2m, good to firm). SHARMOOR beat recent effort 15l 4th of 16 to Wily Star in selling hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good to soft) with THE FINAL SPARK (7lb worse off) 23½l 5th. Selection: PALACE OF GOLD

3.10 GOSFORTH PARK NOVICES CHASE
(£2,883: 2m 4f) (7 runners)

301 116-P31 COLONEL IN CHIEF 13 (S) (R Ogden) G Richards 7-11-10 ..... P Carberry (5) 89
302 3P-6044 OVERWHELM 69 (G) (Lady Wallace) V Thompson 9-11-5 ..... Mr M Thompson (7) 71
303 6-2F BRANDY CROSS 19 (G) (M Thompson) H Johnson 8-11-4 ..... A Dobbin 93
304 16 BRIGHTER SHADE 105 (F) (G Hall) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-4 ..... P Niven –
305 PP/00P CHILDSWAY 16 (F,6) (S Robinson) S Robinson 9-11-4 ..... Michael Brennan (3) –
306 3F-0614 NUWAY 35 (S) (T Barnes) M Barnes 7-11-4 ..... S Taylor (5) 74
307 63-3423 SHAWWELL 89 (F,6) (Mrs J Straker) J Charlton 10-11-4 ..... B Storey 71

BETTING: Evens Colonel In Chief, 7-4 Brandy Cross, 6-1 Brighter Shade, 16-1 Nuway, 20-1 Overwhelm, Shawwell, 25-1 Childsway.

FORM FOCUS

COLONEL IN CHIEF beat Mr Kinkell distance in 5-runner novice chase at Ayr (2m 5f, 110yd, soft). OVERWHELM about 13½l 4th of 8 to Megan in novice chase at Musselburgh (2m 4f, good to firm) on penultimate start. BRANDY CROSS 23½l 2nd of 15 to Chacely in novice chase at Carlisle (3m, good) on penultimate start. BRIGHTER SHADE best Blood Brother 7l in National Hunt flat race at Sedgefield (2m 1f, good to firm). NUWAY 24½l 4th of 7 to Sparky Gayle in novice chase at Carlisle (2m, good to firm). SHAWWELL 19½l 2nd of 11 to Majority Major in novice chase here (3m, good to soft) on penultimate start. Selection: COLONEL IN CHIEF

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,6,5) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ..... B West (7) 86

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell, P — pulled up, U — unseated rider, B — brought down, S — slipped up, R — refused, D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F lf flat, (B — blinkers, V — visor, H — hood, E — Eyeshield, C — course winner, D — distance winner, CD — course and distance winner, BF — beaten favourite in last race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard, G — good, S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

3.40 BRANDLING HOUSE MAIDEN HURDLE
(£2,495: 2m) (15 runners)

401 52-01U BOLD STATEMENT 28 (G) (R Graham) G Moore 5-11-8 ..... N Bentley –
402 0 FLY EXECUTIVE 83 (S Fitzwilright) S Fitzwilright 6-11-8 ..... Mr Chris Williams –
403 MISS STAN (J Critchley) L Lungo 6-11-5 ..... R Supple –
404 2 NIGEL'S LAD 9 (R Dunnington) P Haslam 5-11-5 ..... M Foster (5) –
405 143236 NUTTY SOLERA 20 (G) (R Anderson Green) C Parker 7-11-5 ..... B Storey 79
406 0-0P0 ONLY A SIOUX 24 (Mrs S Barrett) J Turner 5-11-5 ..... D Parker –
407 F SOLWAY KING 16 (A Graham) M Barnes 7-11-5 ..... S Taylor (5) –
408 2220-24 SUPREME SOVIET 18 (I Campbell) A Whillans 7-11-5 ..... A Dobbin 81
409 5/0 THE MICKLETONIAN 76 (Mrs N Scott) J Charlton 6-11-5 ..... K Johnson –
410 THORNWOOD (British Steel Partners) J Oliver 5-11-5 ..... A Thornton –
411 0-60452 DARK PHOENIX 21 (V,6) (Mrs P Bremner) D Brannan 7-11-3 ..... M Brennan 76
412 P EVENING DUSK 18 (Mrs F Pitman) J Oliver 5-11-3 ..... S Melrose (7) –
413 OOPP OTTADINI 28 (F Fabe) W Reed 5-11-3 ..... T Reed –
414 0 ROYAL YORK 23 (R Ogden) G Richards 5-11-3 ..... P Carberry 88
415 2334 FALCON'S FLAME 12 (V Thompson) V Thompson 4-10-12 ..... Mr M Thompson 76

BETTING: 5-4 Nigel's Lad, 7-1 Supreme Soviet, 8-1 Bold Statement, Royal York, Dark Phoenix, 12-1 Falcon's Flame, 16-1 Nutty Solera, 20-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

BOLD STATEMENT best FOr Cathal 4l in 14-runner national hunt flat at Hexham (2m, good) on penultimate start. NIGEL'S LAD 21¼l 2nd of 19 to Marello in novice hurdle over course and distance (good). NUTTY SOLERA 11¾l 4th of 24 to Mr Luppik in National Hunt flat race over course and distance (good to soft) with OTTADINI (7lb worse off) 52½l 18th and FLY EXECUTIVE (12lb worse off) 14l 21st. SUPREME SOVIET 5l 2nd of 8 to Stash The Cash in handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m, good) on penultimate start. DARK PHOENIX 31½l 2nd of 20 to Wing Hand in novice hurdle over course and distance (good). FALCON'S FLAME 2½l 3rd of 12 to Maple Bay in novice hurdle at Nottingham (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start. Selection: NIGEL'S LAD

4.10 NORTHERN RACING HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,280: 3m) (6 runners)

501 112F11/ STRATH ROYAL 660 (CD,F,6,5) (Lady Anne Bentinck) D Brannan 11-12-0 M Brennan –
502 352-331 ACT THE WAG 16 (D,F,6) (R Ogden) M Todhunter 8-10-11 ..... P Carberry 97
503 343P/P-1 DAVY BLAKE 18 (F,6,5) (T Dalgetty) T Dalgetty 10-10-9 ..... A Dobbin 93
504 123-311 STORMY CORAL 41 (CD,6,5) (R Anderson Green) C Parker 7-10-4 ..... B Storey 89
505 43/1-P STONEY BURKE 78 (S) (Miss F Noble) Miss L Russell 8-10-0 ..... A Thornton –
506 /01P/PP JOHNNY KELLY 11 (D,5) (C Murphy) J Carr 10-10-0 ..... F Leahy (3) –

Long handicap: Stoney Burke 9-12, Johnny Kelly 9-11.

BETTING: 7-4 Stormy Coral, 9-4 Act The Wag, 3-1 Davy Blake, 6-1 Strath Royal, 16-1 Johnny Kelly, 20-1 Stoney Burke.

FORM FOCUS

STRATH ROYAL beat Cogent 2l to 5-runner handicap chase over course and distance (good to firm) on penultimate start, March 95. ACT THE WAG beat Heavenly Citizen 6l in 6-runner handicap chase at Catterick (3m 8f, good). DAVY BLAKE beat Off The Box 11l in 9-runner handicap chase at Kelso (3m 1f, good). STORMY CORAL beat Ali's Alfa 2l in 5-runner handicap chase at Carlisle (3m, good). STONEY BURKE beat Fizzy Logic 4l in 7-runner novice chase at Hexham (3m 1f 110yd, good). Nov 95 JOHNNY KELLY pulled up to Gold Pigeon in 5-runner handicap chase at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, good). Selection: STORMY CORAL

4.40 ST MODWEN HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,485: 3m) (10 runners)

601 313255 DALLY BOY 9 (G,F,6) (T Bennett) T Easterby 5-11-10 ..... R Garritty 95
602 41-U221 SWANBISTER 28 (D,6,5) (D Greig) L Lungo 7-11-3 ..... R Supple 90
603 10/32-0P BANG IN TROUBLE 3 (S) (Mrs L Jeaphard) J J O'Neill 6-11-2 R McGrath (5) 88
604 /1/054-P MANOR COURT 32 (F) (Exors of R Lamb) D Lamb 9-10-13 ..... J Burke 85
605 F4P042 FLAT TOP 9 (D,5) (D Spence) M W Easterby 6-10-12 ..... R Garritty 94
606 55160-1 NORTHERN SQUARE 20 (CD,6,5) (Mrs M Dixon) J Jefferson 9-10-11 A Dobbin 88
607 0150/11 TRIBUNE 18 (F,6) (Hexagon Racing) C Thornton 6-10-10 ..... M Foster 93
608 5-0023 SMADDY LAD 18 (R Shiels) R Shiels 6-10-7 ..... D Bentley 92
609 0-02613 ADIS 13 (B,D,6,5) (R Mason) G Moore 7-10-4 ..... M Bentley 97
610 3644/5- THIS BETTLE DANGER 294 (D,F) (Lady Bersted) D Benison 13-10-0 M Brennan –

Long handicap: This Bettle Danger 9-13.

BETTING: 5-2 Flat Top, 9-2 Dally Boy, 5-1 Swanbister, 13-2 Northern Square, 7-1 Tribune, 8-1 Adis, 10-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

DALLY BOY best recent effort 14l 2nd of 5 to Anthracite in handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). SWANBISTER beat SMADDY LAD (4lb better off) 2l in 14-runner novice hurdle at Ayr (3m 110yd, good). FLAT TOP 15l 2nd of 20 to Dockmaster in conditional handicap hurdle over course and distance (good). NORTHERN SQUARE best Hobbit's Head in 8-runner conditionals handicap hurdle at Carlisle (3m 110yd, soft). TRIBUNE beat Teddish Tower 12l in 4-runner handicap hurdle at Kelso (3m 6f 110yd, good). ADIS beat Belle Rose 4l in 6-runner novice handicap hurdle at Ayr (3m 110yd, good) on penultimate start. Selection: FLAT TOP (nap)

Blinkered first time

SOUTHWELL: 1.20 Time To Fly, Shashi. 1.50 Private Fixture. 2.20 Storm Wind. NEWCASTLE: 2.10 Solba. 2.40 Liam's Loss.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

1.25 Orange And Blue. 1.55 Private Fixture. 2.25 Love Me Do. 2.55 Bonnie Lassie. 3.25 What A Fuss. 3.55 Time Can Tell. 4.25 Klipspringer. 4.55 Broughton's Pride.

GOING: STANDARD — DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW BEST — SIS

1.25 APENNINES SELLING HANDICAP
(Div I: £2,083: 6f) (12 runners)

1 (6) 4314 SEA DEVIL 5 (CD,F,6,5) M Camacho 11-9-12 M Tebbutt 97
2 (1) 0654 SHASHI 7 (V,CD,F,6) Pat Mitchell 5-9-7 ..... R Lappin 94
3 (2) 0000 WAU 21 (C,F,6,5) J Eyre 7-9-4 ..... T Williams –
4 (8) 00-0 DICTATION 54 J J O'Neill 5-9-1 ..... W Ryan 90
5 (12) 000- NITEOWL RAIDER 91 (CD,6) J Harris 4-9-0 ..... J O'Reilly 84
6 (7) 0040 NAPOLEON STAR 3 (D,F,5) S Bowring 5-8-11 ..... S Webster –
7 (4) -346 RABA 14 (V,CD,6) Mrs N Macauley 9-8-7 ..... D Teague (3) 93
8 (3) 64-5 MARGARETROSE ANNA 7 B Baugh 5-8-4 ..... R Adams 96
9 (10) 0-00 ORANGE AND BLUE 17 (F) Miss J Cross 4-8-3 N Varley (3) 86
10 (5) 8-08 TIME TO FLY 26 (S) B Mactaggart 4-8-2 ..... J Quinn 84
11 (9) 350- YOUNG BEN 124 (V) J Wainwright 5-7-11 ..... J Bramhill (5) –
12 (11) /00- SILENT SYSTEM 139 D Chapman 4-7-10 ..... D Wright –

9-4 Sea Devil, 4-1 Shashi, Raba, Napoleon Star, 8-1 Dictation, 10-1 others.

1.55 CAUCASUS AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP
(Div I: £2,083: 7f) (10)

1 (4) 560- KARINSKA 198 (C,D,F,6) M Chapman 7-11-7 K Lloyd's (7) 91
2 (5) 116- MELS BABY 79 (F,6,5) J Eyre 4-11-2 Miss Diana Jones –
3 (10) 30-0 ROSEATE LODGE 21 (C,D,F,6) S Kettlewell 11-10-9 Mrs C Williams (4) 89
4 (6) 4636 PRIVATE FOXTURE 9 (B,D,6) D Marks 6-10-5 T McCarthy 94
5 (9) -620 SOAKED 26 D Chapman 4-10-5 ..... Miss R Clark 88
6 (3) 000- TICKA TICKA TIMING 352 (V,C,6) B Murray 4-10-5 Miss P Robson 92
7 (3) -053 DREAM CARRIER 9 (CD,F,6) R Peacock 9-10-5 Mrs C Peacock (7) 96
8 (7) 00-0 GLORIA IMPERATOR 28 A Mulholland 4-10-1 M Baughton 88
9 (2) 0/00 HERSHEAR 21 (C,6) Mrs V Aconley 7-9-13 G Markham (7) –
10 (1) 0533 RING THE CHIEF 3 (BF) M Usher 5-9-9 ..... Mrs A Usher (4) 96

5-2 Mels Baby, 5-1 Ring The Chief, 11-2 Soaked, Private Fixture, 8-1 others.

2.25 SIERRA MADRE MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,046: 1m 4f) (8)

1 (5) 6524 ZATOPEK 7 J Cullinan 5-9-13 ..... D Sweeney (5) 79
2 (8) 60/3 ZINE LAKE 19 (V,BF) J O'Shea 5-9-13 ..... G Lee (5) 77
3 (3) 045- AFRICAN SUN 6J M Chapman 4-9-10 ..... D Holland 73
4 (1) 026- MOONRAKING 191 T Ethenington 4-9-10 C Lowther (7) 85
5 (4) 0-06 STORM WIND 12 (B) K Burke 4-9-10 ..... A Culhane 68
6 (7) 0-00 VESSEY 7 (B) John Berry 4-9-5 ..... T Williams –
7 (2) 00-5 GOOD DAY 24 C Thornton 3-8-3 ..... J Quinn 77
8 (6) 5323 LOVE ME DO 18 (BF) M Johnston 3-8-3 ..... J Fanning 79

7-4 Love Me Do, 4-1 Moonraking, 5-1 Zine Lake, 6-1 African Sun, 10-1 others.

2.55 ROCKY CLAIMING STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,433: 1m) (5)

1 (7) 31-5 BONNIE LASSIE 18 (CD,6) C Thornton 9-8 D McKeown (5) 89
2 (2) 0-4 EJEER 5 M Chapman 8-11 ..... P P Murphy (5) 81
3 (3) 221-1 WALESCOURT BOY 5 (BL,C,D,6) T Barron 8-9 D Holland (5) 97
4 (5) 00- WHAT'S THAT AMY 193 C Smith 8-4 ..... A Clark –
5 (4) 0-50 LE SPRUTTLE 24 M Tompkins 7-12 ..... Dale Gibson 90

10-11 Ballaborough Boy, 11-4 Bonnie Lassie, 11-2 Le Sprittle, 10-1 others.

3.25 ALPS HANDICAP
(£4,484: 1m) (9)

1 (2) 606- IAMUS 147 (D,F) T Barron 4-9-12 ..... D McKeown 91
2 (8) 0111 KINGCHIP BOY 10 (CD,F,6) M Ryan 8-9-10 ..... A Clark 98
3 (3) 104/ SHERGY 453J (F) S Kettlewell 5-9-9 ..... Jonjo Brennan (7) –
4 (6) 021- WAZURKEY 90 (D,6) M Maughan 4-9-1 ..... J Quinn 90
5 (1) 5-22 ERTLON 6 (D,BF,6) C British 7-8-0 ..... D Holland 88
6 (7) 2122 RAMBO WALTZER 10 (CD,F,6,5) D Nicholls 5-9-0 Iona Wands (7) 94
7 (5) 20-1 WHAT A FUSS 26 (6) B Hanbury 4-8-11 ..... J Stack 93
8 (2) -214 SEA SPOUSE 10 (CD,6,5) M Blanshard 5-8-9 N Adams 97
9 (9) 3628 PLEASURE TRICK 17 (B,C,D,F,6) E Irvine 6-7-10 Kim Tinkler 99

3-1 What A Fuss, 7-2 Kingchip Boy, 5-1 Erlton, Sea Spouse, 6-1 Rambo Waltzer, 8-1 Wazurkey, 10-1 others.

3.55 PYRENEES HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £5,342: 1m 3f) (5)

1 (5) 1226 MILLROY 9 (6) P Kelleway 9-7 ..... Angela Gallimore (7) 98
2 (1) -311 LAWN LOTHARIO 9 (G) M Johnston 8-9 ..... T Williams 99
3 (3) 0-15 GOING FOR BRIDE 48 (C,6) P Haslam 8-2 Martin Dwyer (5) 97
4 (4) -511 PUZZLEMENT 5 (G) C Brittain 8-1 (5ex) ..... Dale Gibson 97
5 (2) 3254 TIME CAN TELL 5 (G) C Murray 8-0 ..... Nicola Howarth 97

13-8 Lawn Lothario, 15-8 Puzzlement, 11-2 Millroy, 13-2 Going For Bride, 10-1 Time Can Tell.

4.25 APENNINES SELLING HANDICAP
(Div II: £2,083: 6f) (11)

1 (8) 3250 BOLD ARISTOCRAT 17 (CD,5) B Hollinshead 6-10-0 F Lynch (3) 98
2 (11) 2255 HIGH MAJESTIC 3 (V,F,6) R Thompson 4-9-8 ..... J Quinn 95
3 (2) -250 KLIPSPRINGER 42 (B,CD,6) B Hellmell 4-8-9 ..... J Stack 91
4 (9) 20-0 MILLERMAN REFURB 51 (D,6,5) M Channon 4-8-4 Candy Morris 92
5 (6) -306 SWEET MATE 17 (B,CD,6) S Bowring 5-8-3 S Webster 85
6 (10) 8-40 BUY'S GAMBLE 21 (C,6) J Weston 4-8-11 ..... J Fanning 92
7 (1) 3004 CRACKE BOY 91 (D,6,5) M Bycroft 7-8-3 J Bramhill (5) 97
8 (5) -256 RAGAZZO 21 (G) J Wainwright 7-8-3 ..... N Varley (3) 95
9 (7) -000 MAYSIMP 35 B Baugh 4-7-12 ..... N Adams 90
10 (4) 0400 CHEERFUL GROOM 16 (F) D Shaw 5-7-10 ..... N Kennedy 90
11 (3) 6-59 TUTU SIXTYSIX 17 (F,6) E Irvine 5-7-10 ..... Kim Tinkler 83

7-2 Heb Majestic, 4-1 Bold Aristocrat, 5-1 Klipspringer, 6-1 Millerman Refurb, 7-1 Colgate Boy, 8-1 Sweet Mate, 10-1 Guy's Gamble, 12-1 others.

4.55 CAUCASUS AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP
(Div II: £2,083: 7f) (10)

1 (5) 000- DANCING SIOUX 112 (CD,6) R Guest 5-11-7 Miss Z Bothell (7) 91
2 (6) 805- DAVID JAMES' GIRL 170 (CD,G,5) A Bailey 5-10-13 Miss A L Hutchinson (7) 90
3 (8) -142 TRULY BAY 21 (B,CD,5) T Barron 4-10-8 Miss M Keethen (4) 95
4 (3) 1202 BROUGHTON'S PRIDE 14 (C,F,6) J Eyre 6-10-9 Miss Diana Jones –
5 (9) -123 BOLD HABIT 2 (CD,F,6) J Pearce 12-10-4 Mrs L Pearce –
6 (4) 56-0 KID ORY 21 (D,6) D Chapman 6-10-1 ..... Miss R Clark 98
7 (1) 6400 SPANISH STRIPPER 7 (F) M Chapman 6-9-13 C Watson (7) 90
8 (2) 000- JUST FLAMENCO 183 (F,5) M Ryan 6-9-10 R Van Der Kraats– Miss R J Paterson (4) 91
9 (7) 2100 ROYAL ASCLAIM 21 (V,C,D,F,6,5) C Jackson 12-9-8
10 (10) 000- SUSSEX GORSE 90 J Long 6-9-0 ..... T Wilkins (7) –

9-4 Bold Habit, 7-2 Broughton's Pride, 4-1 Truly Bay, 8-1 David James' Girl, 10-1 Dancing Sioux, Royal Acclaim, Spanish Stripper, 12-1 others.

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S FIVE MEETINGS

Kempton Park

Going: good

1.55 (2m hdle) 1, Sanmartino (A Maguire, 2-5 fav); 2, Mister Rim (20-1). 3, No Pattern (11-1). 7 ran. 2l, 7l. D Nicholson. Tote: £1.30; £1.10, £6.10. DF: £7.60. CSF: £10.93.

2.25 (2m chl) 1, Viking Flagship (A Maguire, 8-13 fav); 2, Arctic Kinsman (4-1); 3, Marling

RUGBY LEAGUE

Paris show benefit of loosening the French connection

Salford Reds 8
Paris Saint-Germain 4

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ALTHOUGH they narrowly lost this rumbustious Silk Cut Challenge Cup fifth round tie by an old-fashioned scoreline, Paris Saint-Germain will need to be treated by opposition teams in the Super League next month with far more respect this year.

Perhaps it had something to do with the make-up of the side at the Willows — 15 Australians, a New Zealander and Karl Jaavuo, an Australian-born Finn. Frenchmen were conspicuous by their absence.

Were it not for a forward pass, from which Wall squeezed in the corner two minutes from the end, Salford might have been staring at defeat. Ultimately, they were indebted to two penalties, one for holding down in the tackle and another a rash drop-out direct into touch by Bird, both of which Watson converted from in front of the posts.

The danger posed by Paris, whose defence was unpicked just the once, was clearly underestimated by Salford. Andy Gregory, the home team coach, said: "We'll get few harder games than this," he said. "In the Super League I expect that Paris will win a lot of games."

One of the first tasks that Peter Mulholland undertook on arrival at Paris from Perth Western Reds was a mass clear-out of the dead wood. Only three French players are left on the club's books, and, of last season's team, only Bird and Sands were among the 17 yesterday. Although a lot of the recruits were surplus to the requirements of the Australian Super League, Mulholland has recruited intelligently.

David O'Donnell, the former Manly and London Broncos player, was the driving force of the Paris attack. Always alert for the half-chance, he was narrowly edged out for the man-of-the-match award by Rogers, the Salford full back. Like all Australian sides, however, sound defence is the key and Paris looked impenetrable until the try by Sini, in the 46th minute, that pulled back Salford's 4-0 deficit at the break.

Paris's build-up had been far from ideal, but their performance yesterday sent a message, particularly to the likes of Oldham and Castleford, that the French representatives do not intend to occupy the one relegation place in the Super League.

"We've still got seven or eight players to come into the side," Mulholland said. "I was pleased with our defence particularly, although in training we'd worked hard on attack. I think we're going to be a hard side to crack."

Salford remain dark horses to reach Wembley, and they, too, impressed in shutting Paris out and surviving at the finish. Victories ground out in these circumstances inspire confidence and home advantage in the quarter-final draw would add to the mood of expectancy at the Willows.

Steve Presley, the referee, had made little of some persistent holding down in the tackle by both sides before he despatched Sing and Hulme to the sin-bin in rapid succession, reducing both sides to 12 players. Sing's offence was especially costly in allowing Watson the penalty to put Salford in front for the first time just past the hour. The Salford stand-off half was accurate again after Bird's drop out error.

Salford trailed to two first-half penalties by Robinson. Their try was the result of the one accurate kick Lee managed all afternoon. Sini latched on to it as the compressed Paris defence was, for once, found wanting.

Results 37

SCORERS: Salford: Try: Sini. Goals: Watson (2). Paris Saint-Germain: Goals: Robinson (2).

SALFORD REDS: D Rogers; F Sini, S Naylor, M McAvoy, P Coussons; I Watson, M Lee; A Platt, P Edwards, C Eccles, P Forber, J Cartwright, D Hulme.

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN: D Bird; A Wall, J Keough, J Olejnik; P Evans; J Robinson, J Marsh; J Taylor, D O'Donnell, J Sands, W Sing, A Hancock, D Lomax.

Referee: S Presley (Castleford).

Halifax go down to rampant Keighley

KEIGHLEY COUGARS underlined their Super League ambitions by claiming a shock victory over Halifax, sealing a 21-8 success over their Yorkshire rivals with a late flurry, having frustrated all Halifax's efforts to add to the eight points they earned before the interval.

With only six points between the teams and six minutes remaining, Chris Robinson, a former Halifax scrum half, landed a close-range dropped goal. Lafele Filipo, a substitute, barged over under the posts in injury-time as Keighley reached the quarter-finals for the first time in 21 years.

St Helens, the holders, ran in ten tries in a comprehensive 54-8 victory over Hull at Knowsley Road. Paul Newlove, the Great Britain centre, crossed on three occasions and there were two tries apiece for Anthony Sullivan and Alan Hunte. Lee Briers, a replacement for the suspended Bobbie Goulding, scored a try and kicked five goals on his senior debut.

Leeds enjoyed almost as emphatic a victory, beating Dewsbury by 48-22 at Headingley, being given a flying start by their captain, Gary Mercer, who touched down for the first of two tries straight from the kick-off.

☐ South Wales yesterday officially abandoned plans to relaunch the club in an attempt to join the Super League next year. Financial backing has fallen though.

Broncos fall like a punctured balloon

JOHN GICHIGI / ALLSPORT



Medley, of Bradford, was foiled in this breakneck dash for the line during their 34-12 win by a stunning flying tackle from Mestrov

Simon Barnes watches a new rugby league owner witness his side's Challenge Cup hopes bulldozed into muddy oblivion

RICHARD BRANSON has invented a new way of being a millionaire. He has rejected the traditional props of cigars, champagne and chorus girls. He shows little interest in the world of power-broking, in making politicians dance like puppets to his whims. He does not wish to be feared; he prefers instead to be a Really Nice Chap.

Instead of seeking to be the real power in the land, he has made his life into an episode of *Blue Peter*; rather a good one. And next week, John Noakes parachutes down from the outer edge of the earth's atmosphere while Val shows you how to make the Hubble telescope from the inside of a roll of lavatory paper.

Last week Richard went ballooning all the way round the earth — well, jolly nearly — and this week Richard tries rugby league and discovers that — even with the best will and all the sticky-backed plastic in the world — you can't make a silk purse from a sow's ear. Still, it would be a better world if all millionaires tried to be like John Noakes instead of, say, Howard Hughes.

I am not sure what his son, Sam, thought of the game on Saturday. Sam is 11 and a Manchester United supporter — a genetic preference for success over local sentiment — and perhaps he would have preferred to watch David Beckham. Instead, he and his Pa got an afternoon of watching 13 earnest and chunky men rolling about in the mud and coming second. For the latest episode in the life of the man of the thousand woollies is based around his purchase of a 15 per cent stake in the London Broncos rugby league club.

On Saturday Branson père et fils watched their side free-fall out of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, perishing to Bradford Bulls, the 1996 beaten finalists. Branson visited the dressing-room afterwards, but it was a little awkward: rugby league types do not sit about grinning merrily and saying well, the better team won. He left without distributing the Blue Peter badges.

Rugby league has been a brave, expansionist sport for years, and now it is on the verge of the great breakthrough — but then it always is. The truth of the matter is that this splendid game gets the bends every time that it gets to a ground where you cannot hear the hum of the M62 motorway.

London-based rugby league sides have played at Fulham football ground, at somewhere out in darkest west London, a place I once found by a miraculous piece of investigative journalism, and at Charlton Football Club. Now they are in Twickenham.

Odd, to walk out of Twickenham station for the rugby and not a Barbour in sight. No, the Broncos are not in the actual rugby union headquarters, they are round the corner, but still on the other code's sacred ground.

They now have a three-year contract to play at the Stoop, the home of Harlequins, the snootiest of all rugby union clubs. It was rather as if the Ancient Romans had leased out the Eternal City to the Goths and the Vandals for weekends; and yet there were a few Harlequin shirts in the crowd. For that matter, there was a Harlequin playing for Bradford, this being the wonderfully promising Paul, who was one of the winter season's cross-coders.

Branson warmed to his explosive qualities and listened energetically to talk of how much such a talent would cost a club. For Broncos played a stodgy game on a stodgy pitch, a side filled with their coach's ideas and lacking any of their own. You need more than well-drilled routines against a defence as well-drilled as Bradford's.

Also, Bradford possessed rugby league's most exciting commodity: explosive improvisation. Nickle was involved twice in just such a moment: a 70-yard burst for the try that turned the match. His second try, fed once again by the mighty Lowes, at the start of the second half, wrapped it up.

The Broncos' brief resurgence was always unconvincing and, over the closing minutes, the Bulls galloped away with the game. Odd, to make a Challenge Cup tie feel like a pre-season friendly; the absurdly named Super League does not start for another three weeks, when the Broncos have another tester with a visit from St Helens.

Sam should go and watch Manchester United that weekend if he wants to cheer a winner, but his Pa was happy enough. "We should have a very good side in two or three years," he said, "and then we will begin to get a repayment on our investment."

You want instant success? Well, here's one I made earlier. And now for something quite different . . .

SCORERS: London Broncos: Tries: Roskell, Krause. Goals: Barwick (2). Bradford Bulls: Tries: Nickle (2), Loughlin, Paul, Tomlinson, Cook. Goals: McNamara (4).

LONDON BRONCOS: A Martin; M McGuire, P Smith, D Krause, S Roskell; T Tollett, J White; A Mestrov, R Beazley, R Bawden, S Rosolen, P Gill, T Matterson. Substitutes: G Barwick, M Dunford, R Best, A Spencer.

BRADFORD BULLS: S Spruce, J Scales, G Bradley, D Peacock, O Loughlin; R Paul, G Tomlinson; B McDermott, J Lowes, T Rashana, J Donagher, S Nickle. S McNamara. Substitutes: W Jowitt, S Knox, P Cook, P Medley.

Referee: D Campbell (Widnes)

POINT-TO-POINT

Fiddlers Pike defies march of time

BY CARL EVANS

JENNY PITMAN may be styled the queen of Aintree but some would say Rosemary Henderson's fifth place on Fiddlers Pike in 1994 is every bit as meritorious as the Lambourn trainer's two winners.

Mrs Henderson, 54, and her horse remain a symbol for veterans and they have not yet finished defying age, judging by a smooth 12-1 win over Just My Bill at the Bolventor Harriers meeting on Saturday.

Sixteen-year-old Fiddlers Pike has never been speedy but he grinds on relentlessly when others stop and the holding ground and sensible pace enabled him to reveal class not seen since his previous win four years ago at Chepstow.

Anthony Honeyball, from Bridgwater, is the same age as Fiddlers Pike but still a novice. He rode his first winner, then made it a double, on his father John's Eyre Point and Royal Turn in divisions of the maiden.

Julian Pritchard would love to be a national champion and his riding deserves it. On his local patch at the North Hereford meeting he notched a treble with Stag Fight, Perryline and Rocket Radar and was sure he could have gone one better had Blue Rosette not fallen at the second-last when upsides winner Baptist John in the maiden division two.

Oaklands Word will tackle Cheltenham's Foxhunters' Chase after winning the men's open under Evan Williams. Owner Frederick Luff, a former employee of Shell, has struck oil on his own account with Oaklands Word, who cost just 3,500gns at Malvern Sales.

Minella Express, formerly with Aidan O'Brien in Ireland, is now trained and ridden by Caroline Spearing, who has sprung a couple of recent surprises on the handicap hurdler Bankhead. Minella Express faced Split Second, unbeaten in five races and ridden by champion Alison Dare in the ladies open, but led throughout for a convincing win.

BERWICKSHIRE (Friars Haugh): Hunt: 1, Fiscal Policy (H Trotter, 4-3 fav); 2, Luckspiel. Only 2 finished. 4 ran. Confined: 1, Hegar (M Bradburne, 6-1); 2, Ensign Ewart; 3, Kilminloyle. 9 ran. Restr: 1, Nova Nita (P Craggs, 5-1); 2, Denim Blue; 3, Eastlands Hi-Light. 15 ran. Ladies: 1, Parsons Brig (Miss S Foster, 5-2 j-fav); 2, Astrac Tno ; 2, Funny Feelings. 13 ran. Land Rover Open: 1, Seyn Now! (A Parker, 4-5 fav); 2, Alazmoss; 3, Sledgus Port. 8 ran. Open Mdn I: 1, Wang How (A Robson, 8-1); 2, Donside; 3, Explore Mondial. 13 ran. Open Mdn II: 1, Thief's Road (R Shiels, 9-2); 2, My Meadowsweet; 3, Bluebell Track. 15 ran. Open Mdn III: 1, Fiddlers Brae (R Shiels, 3-1); 2, Red Hot Boogie. Only 2 finished. 10 ran.

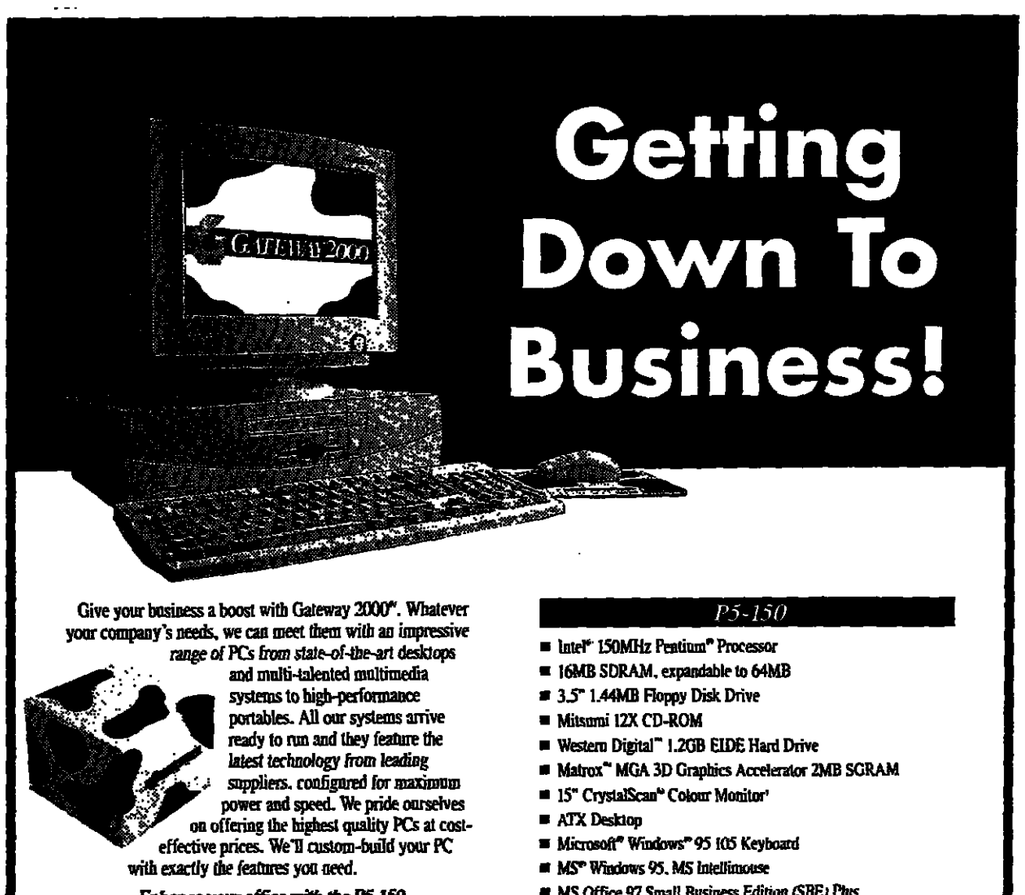
BOLVENTOR HARRIERS (Lamellic): Intermediate: 1, Bet With Baker (Miss P Cuding, 2-1); 2, King Torre ; 3, Ticket To The Moon. 12 ran. Confined: 1, Fiddlers Pike (Mrs R Henderson, 12-1); 2, Just My Bill; 3, Baldhu Chance. 13 ran. Ladies: 1, Secret Four (Miss T Cave, 5-2); 2, Just Berl ; 3, Celtic Sport. 9 ran. Land Rover Open: 1, Magnolia Man (N Harris, 5-2); 2, The General's Drum; 3, Quotable Memory. 7 ran. Restr: 1, Three And A Half (N Harris, 5-4 fav); 2, Hir Ivr; 3, Spanglombe. 11 ran. Restr II: 1, Tminonit (M Miller, 9-1); 2, Clandon Lad; 3, Milled Oats. 17 ran. Open Mdn I: 1, Ragtime Boy (A Ferrant, 4-5 fav); 2, Pilgrim's Mission ; 3, Moonbay Lady. 10 ran. Open Mdn II: 1, Perambulate (L Jefford, 3-1); 2, Harbonar; 3, Kairos Runner. 12 ran. Open Mdn III: 1, Eyre Point (A Honeyball, 2-1 fav); 2, Midnight Bob; 3, Trolly. 12 ran. Open Mdn IV: 1, Saint Joseph (Miss S Young, 25-1); 2, Harmony's Choice; 3, Comedy Gayle. 11 ran. Open Mdn V: 1, Royal Turn (A Honeyball, 6-4); 2, The Ugly Duckling. Only 2 finished. 4 ran.

BROCKLESBY (Brocklesby Park): Hunt: 1, Henry Gale (P Strawson, 12-1); 2, Johnny Be Good. Only 2 finished. 4 ran. Confined: 1, Spectaclemangement (A Hill, 6-4 fav); 2, Double Collect; 3, Okeefee. 10 ran. Ladies: 1, Final Hope (Mrs F Needham, 11-10 fav); 2, London Hill; 3, Cry God. 4 ran. Mens Open: 1, Copper Thistle (R Hunnisett, Evens fav); 2, Raise An Argument; 3, Kambalda Rambler. 8 ran. Interlink Restr: 1, Wise Wizard (E Andrewes, 6-1); 2, Beckdon; 3, White Buffle. 16 ran. Open Mdn I: 1, Cut A Niche (F Hutsby, 5-2); 2, Kendor Peiss ; 3, Bendoesth. 9 ran. Open Mdn II: 1, Joint Account (Mrs F Needham, 6-1); 2, Minellano; 3, Bugsy Moran. 6 ran.

NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE (Newtown): Hunt: 1, Perfect Light (R Lee, 8-11 fav); 2, Kingofnobles ; 3, Calngel. 6 ran. Confined: 1, Stag Fight (Julian Pritchard, 12-1); 2, All Weather; 3, Sterling Buck . 14 ran. Men's Open: 1, Oaklands Word (E Williams, 4-5 fav); 2, Hill Island; 3, Millcrete Best. 17 ran. Ladies: 1, Minella Express (Miss C Spearing, 7-2); 2, Split Second; 3, Blue Cheek. 12 ran. Restr I: 1, Scarlet Berry (S Blackwell, 3-1); 2, Onemorsenwego; 3, Guiness. 14 ran. Mdn I: 1, Against The Agent (H Wheeler, 4-1); 2, Clovers Last; 3, Merry Noelle. 18 ran. Restr II: 1, Perryline (J Pritchard, 7-1); 2, Purple Melody ; 3, Meadow Cottage. 18 ran. Mdn II: 1, Baptist John (M Harris, 12-1); 2, Emerald Charm ; 3, Rusty Fellow. 16 ran. Restr III: 1, Gunner Boon (Miss P Jones, 15-8 fav); 2, Trevverathan ; 3, Mackabee . 15 ran. Mdn III: 1, Rocket Radar (Julian Pritchard, Evens fav); 2, Western Pearl; 3, In The Water. 11 ran.

SINNINGTON (Duncombe Park): Hunt: 1, Earl Grey (Miss A Deniel, 3-1); 2, Kelsea Argument; 3, Cadrition. 9 ran. Confined: 1, Kellya Diamond (Miss V Russell, 10-1); 2, Squires Tale ; 3, Cot Lane. 15 ran. Restr: 1, Barichste (Major M Watson, 5-1); 2, Blackwoodscourary; 3, Atta. 19 ran. Land Rover Mens Open: 1, Pip The Lid (N Tutty, 2-1); 2, Peanuts Pet; 3, Castle Tyrant. 8 ran. Ladies Open: 1, Dark Dawn (Miss L Foston, Evens fav); 2, Integrity Boy; 3, Man Of Mystery. 5 ran. Open Mdn: 1, Pinelindo (W Burrell, 7-1); 2, Yodeller Bill; 3, Lingcool. 16 ran.

SUFFOLK (Ampton): Hunt: 1, Ballyalla Castle (N Bloom, 4-6 fav); 2, Counterbid; 3, Cool Apollo. 8 ran. Confined: 1, Mister Main Man (S Sporborg, 3-1 fav); 2, Emsee-H; 3, Alnrak. 15 ran. Ladies: 1, Green Archer (Mrs T Hill, 5-1); 2, St Gregory; 3, Rousillon To Be. 7 ran. Land Rover Open: 1, Over The Edge (S Sporborg, 8-2); 2, Samswood; 3, Solar Stern. 7 ran. Restr: 1, Ballydesmond (S Sporborg, 2-1 fav); 2, Whats Another; 3, Grassington . 10 ran. Open Mdn: 1, Reel Rascal (P Keane, 3-1); 2, Carlinara; 3, Ticklefay. 10 ran. Open Mdn: 1, Prince Buck (P Harding, 4-5 fav); 2, Storming Roy; 3, The Prior. 12 ran.



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TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership
West Ham v Tottenham (8.0) .....

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Chelmsford v Halesowen (7.45).

ICIS LEAGUE: First division: Bognor Regis v Maidenhead United.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Unibond first division Cup: Third round: Ashton United v Netherfield.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Chelsea v Portsmouth (at Kingstonian FC, 7.0); Luton v Brighton (at Hitchin Town FC, 7.0); Watford v Swindon (at Chesham FC).

PONTIN'S CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Notts County v Leicester (7.0). Second division: Bradford v Shrewsbury (7.0); Mansfield v Rotherham (7.0). League Cup: Group one: Burnley v Oldham (7.15); Carlisle v Wigan (7.0). Group three: Stockport v Tranmere (6.45).

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Rustlip Manor v Hanwell.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Ilford v Brentwood.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools: Under-19 Trophy: John Port v Beauchamp (2.0); Wolverhampton GS v Clitheroe GS (2.0).

OTHER SPORT

GOLF: The President's Putter (at Rye).

TOMORROW

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Leicester v Barbarians (7.45); Lydney v RAF (7.0); Oxford v Oxford University (7.15); Richmond v Royal Navy (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: British light-middleweight championship: Ryan Rhodes (Sheffield, holder) v Peter Waudby (Hull) (at Hillsborough Leisure Centre, Sheffield).

WEDNESDAY

RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: Llanelli v Cardiff (7.0).

CLUB MATCHES: Cambridge University v Pongolns (7.15); Orrell v Mendoza (Arg) (7.15).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: European championship: England v Russia (at Guildford Spectrum, 7.45).

THURSDAY

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Leopards v Leicester (7.0).

FRIDAY

RUGBY UNION

A INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: England v France (at Leicester, 7.30); Scotland v Ireland (at Myreside, Edinburgh, 4.0).

UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: England v France (at Leicester, 6.0); Scotland v Ireland (at Myreside, Edinburgh, 2.30).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Worthing v Chester (8.0).

BOWLS: Women's English national indoor championship (at York).

SWIMMING: British Club team championships (at Stockport).

SATURDAY

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP: England v France (at Twickenham, 3.0); Scotland v Ireland (at Murrayfield, 3.0).

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: Third division: Exeter v Lydney (3.0); Harrogate v London Welsh (3.0); Leeds v Walsall (3.0); Liverpool St Helens v Havant (3.0); Otley v Fylde (3.0); Reading v Clifton (3.0); Rosslyn Park v Morley (3.0); Wharfedale v Redruth (3.0). Fourth division north: Aspatria v Stourbridge (3.0); Birmingham/Solihull v Kendal (3.0); Hereford v Sheffield (3.0); Lichfield v Worcester (3.0); Preston Grasshoppers v Manchester (3.0); Sandal v Stoke-on-Trent (3.0); Winnington Park v Nuneaton (3.0). Fourth division south: Basking v Berry Hill (3.0); Cheltenham v Askeans (3.0); Henley v Newbury (3.0); Metropolitan Police v High Wycombe (3.0); North Walsham v Camberley (3.0); Tabard v Charlton Park (3.0); Weston-super-Mare v Plymouth (3.0).

ANGLO-WELSH COMPETITION: Group A: Pontypool v Blackheath; Richmond v Cross Keys (3.0); Waterloo v Maesteg (3.0). Group B: Moseley v Aberavon (3.0); South Wales Police v Coventry. Group C: Nottingham v Abertillery (3.0); Cardiff Institute v Wakefield (3.0). Group D: Llandovery v London Scottish; Rotherham v Ystradgynlais (3.0); Rugby v Bonymaen (3.0).

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Dunvant v Bridgend; Ebbw Vale v Cardiff; Llanelli v Caerphilly; Newbridge v Neath; Treorchy v Newport.

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Crystal Palace v Leopards (7.30); Derby v Newcastle (7.30); Leicester v Sheffield (7.30); Hemel and Watford v Birmingham (7.30); Thames Valley v Manchester (8.0).

BOWLS: Women's English national indoor championship (at York).

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Play-offs.

SWIMMING: British club team championships (at Stockport).

SUNDAY

RUGBY UNION

ANGLO-WELSH COMPETITION: Group C: Bedford v Aberavon (3.0).

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Pontypridd v Swansea (2.45).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

SILK CUT PLATE: Second round: Bramley v Widnes.

FIRST DIVISION: Featherstone Rovers v Hull Kingston Rovers (3.30); Huddersfield v Whitehaven (3.30); Hull v Swinton (3.15); Wakefield Trinity v Dewsbury (3.30); Workington Town v Keighley. Second division: Carlisle v Batley; Hunslet v Lancashire Lynx (3.30); Leigh v Barrow; Rochdale v Doncaster.

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: British world cross country championships trials (at Stapeley Park, Luton).

BASKETBALL: 7-Up Trophy: Final: Chester v London (at NEC Birmingham, 6.45). Budweiser League: Birmingham v Derby (at NEC Birmingham, 4.15); Newcastle v Crystal Palace (5.30).

BOWLS: Women's English national indoor championship (at York).

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Play-offs.

This week's football, page 30

هكذا من الاصل

RUGBY UNION: SOUTH AFRICAN ENSURES SMOOTH PROGRESS TO SEMI-FINALS AS NEWCASTLE ARE LEFT BEHIND

Stransky takes the controls for Leicester

Newcastle.....8
Leicester.....18

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

ROB ANDREW is not accustomed to being outmanoeuvred on the Kingston Park pitch that he now calls home. Newcastle's polyglot team has lost only once anywhere this season in their restless search for promotion, but, in Joel Stransky on Saturday, Andrew more than met his match.

It took Stransky only a matter of days to translate himself from South Africa's Cape of Storms to the heart of England and now he fits Leicester like a hand in a comfortable glove. Three penalty goals in each half in a strong wind were only part of his contribution as Leicester strode into the semi-finals of the Pilkington Cup for the sixth successive season.

Full results and league tables ....Page 37

In such conditions, fluent rugby, of the kind that both clubs might have sought on a better day, was out of the question. Winning became a matter of control and, where Stransky had it, whether running, riding the tackle or crafting a kick into the corners, Andrew did not. The space to which Andrew has become accustomed in the Courage Clubs Championship second division was no longer there and so the packed house of 5,700 witnessed an uncharacteristic series of snatched kicks and dropped passes.

It was what Newcastle, for all their dozen internationals, had feared: first-division tempo allied to a lack of togetherness, compounded by injuries of which the most serious was to Graham Childs. Childs departed on a stretcher after a five-minute delay, fears that he had sustained a neck injury in a tackle on Will Greenwood allayed when it turned out to be heavy concussion that will create a natural void to be occupied by the club's latest signing — at a price, it may be said, as overblown as the wind — Va'aiga Tuigamala.

In the past 14 weeks Newcastle have had only three meaningful games and, though they flattered to deceive playing into the wind in the first quarter — mainly through Tony Underwood's aggressive running at his former colleagues — they were gradually ground down by the Leicester forwards in what was, intermittently, a mean-spirited game that brought yellow cards for Will Johnson and Richard Arnold.

Both were for late and unnecessary charges, and others might have qualified for the same warning. Frustration accounted for part of it, but there is a cynical streak to Newcastle that they must either erase or disguise if they are to avoid further adverse penalty counts such as the 18-9 tally that Ed Morrison awarded against them. Not that cynicism was to blame for the collapsed scrums in the second half, when the loss of Nick Popplewell, the Ireland prop, took its toll.

He left shortly before the interval with a damaged hamstring that will probably keep him out of the international against Scotland on Saturday. Thereafter, Leicester were able to control the scrums, swinging either way to set up the younger Johnson for a series of powerful charges from No 8 that made one almost forget the absence of Dean Richards and Eric Miller.

Johnson, 22 and only half a stone lighter than his 18st and better-known brother, distinguished himself playing against Old Belvedere earlier this month (when Richards played lock) and Bob Dwyer, the Leicester director of rugby, was delighted by his handling and tackling. "In the first half we didn't establish any control with the wind at all, we didn't kick well, but, in the second half, we were excellent in our control," Dwyer said.

"Week by week I continue to be surprised at how difficult it is to play in league, cup and Europe. It's a very high standard, tough games nine weeks out of ten, and it will be worse next season with teams such as Richmond and Newcastle in the first division. Look at the players who have come in." Players such as Pat Lam, making his home debut for Newcastle and scoring the game's only try with two minutes remaining, and Doddie Weir, whose powerful all-round display added to his credentials as a potential British Isles player.

Lam, the Western Samoa captain, is a player of genuine quality, hard but fair; Weir, the Scotland lock, added to his stature with a feisty lineout display.

Andrew, successful with only one of three kicks at goal, gave Newcastle the initial advantage, but Stransky wafted three penalties down and across the wind for Leicester's 9-3 interval advantage. It seemed nothing like enough after a half in which Newcastle had dominated the ball, and a penalty attempt from 43 metres into the gale by Stransky seemed the longest of shots by Leicester. That one missed, but the next, from only five metres less, did not and the Leicester forwards began to squeeze the life from their opponents.

Two more penalty goals from close range indicated how close Leicester came to crossing the Newcastle line, but Tim Stimpson showed his international qualities with an outstanding defensive display. Lam's try at the close was reward for a series of battering assaults on the Leicester line, but the verdict had long since gone Leicester's way.

SCORERS: Newcastle: Try: Lam. Penalty goal: Andrew. Leicester: Penalty goals: Stransky (6).

NEWCASTLE: T Simpson; J Bentley, A Tait, G Childs, T Underwood; R Andrew, G Armstrong; N Popplewell, R Nesdale, G Graham, P Lam, G Archer, G Weir, R Arnold, D Ryan. Childs replaced by M Tetley (11min); Popplewell replaced by P Vanzandvliet (38).

LEICESTER: J Liley; S Hackney, C Joiner, W Greenwood, L Lloyd; J Stransky; A Healey; G Rowntree, R Cockerill, D Garforth, J Wells, M Johnson, M Poole, N Back, W Johnson, R Liley (temporary replacement for Hackney (20-23, 40-42).

Referee: E Morrison (Bristol).

DAVID ROGERS / ALLSPORT



Lam, scorer of the game's only try, attempts to find a way through with Stransky, left, and Healey providing the cover for Leicester

Guscott's touch of true class puts paid to Bristol

Bristol.....13
Bath.....18

By Barney Spender

SWEEPING statements have a habit of surfacing months later to cause embarrassment — but here goes. On the evidence of the match at the Memorial Ground on Saturday, Bath are not good enough to retain the Courage Clubs Championship and Bristol are too good to go down.

Dangerous comments, perhaps, especially where Bath are concerned. After all, they have the pedigree, and an 18-13 win in this game, despite being outplayed for long stretches, has lifted them into second place in the table.

Bath have not suddenly become a bad side by any means, but this performance, like their Pilkington Cup defeat by Leicester, was decidedly ordinary. That old aura of invincibility has gone.

For most of the 80 minutes they played like a team at odds with each other. Phil de Glanville, their captain, spoke of a lack of rhythm and confidence, yet individual ability remains and, fortunately, they still have enough of that to win in adversity, with the lion's share bottled in Jeremy Guscott.

Jack Rowell may continue to leave his "prince of centres" on the England bench, but Guscott remains the one back in the country that Australia, New Zealand and South Africa would gladly find room for. His try, five minutes into the second half, was quite wonderful and, ultimately, was the five-point difference between the sides.

It began with a searing break in his own half which left the Bristol midfield for dead. Reaching the 22, he checked almost to a standstill looking for support but, rather than feed Sleightholme's inside run, he then set off again, comfortably rounding Maggs for a try in the left-hand corner. Maggs later proved that he is no slouch by catching Sleightholme as he was heading for the line after an interception had given him a decent head start.



Guscott: solo try

Bath struggled up front and were fortunate that Bristol, fresh from a midweek win over Gloucester, seemed intent on giving the ball back every time that they won it. Bristol will kick themselves for not securing their first win over their nearest rivals since 1988 and so go some way towards securing their future in the first division. Alan Davies, their coach, was right when he said: "We lost the game, Bath didn't win it."

Bristol had their chances, but lacked the incisiveness to make them count. Numerous times they were camped on the Bath line, but only once could they penetrate a well-organised defence, when Short wriggled over just before the break to cancel out Redman's own close-range effort after 20 minutes.

Bristol led 13-5 at half-time, but were then undermined by their own generosity, some poor goal-kicking from Burke, who never came to terms with the strong wind, and, of course, one moment of magic from Guscott.

SCORERS: Bristol: Try: Short. Conversion: Burke. Penalty goals: Burke (2). Bath: Tries: Redman, Guscott. Conversions: Callard. Penalty goals: Callard (2).

BRISTOL: P Hull; K Maggs, F Waters, M Denney, B Breese; P Burke, A Jones; D Hinkins, M Regan; K Pullman, M Corry, S Shaw, C Eagle, C Short, E Rollitt.

BATH: J Callard; J Sleightholme, P de Glanville, J Guscott, M Perry; M Catt, C Harrison; K Yates, F Mendez, J Mallett; A Robinson, M Haag, N Redman, R Webster, D Lyle. Catt replaced by R Butland (75min).

Referee: A Rowden (Berkshire)

Gloucester thrive on basic instincts

Wakefield.....21
Gloucester.....25

By Christopher Irvine

IF THERE was hair to be torn from his bullet head, Richard Hill would have done so in tufts. Hill, the Gloucester director of rugby, was far from alone in being driven to distraction at College Grove on Saturday. Two penalty tries, one of them disputed, did not represent the free-flowing passage into the Pilkington Cup semi-finals that Hill had envisaged.

After eight knock-ons in the opening 20 minutes, Gloucester abandoned pretensions to 15-man rugby in favour of more traditional fare. Red meat replaced *nouvelle cuisine* and, in depriving Wakefield of all but four lineouts, their impressive forwards outmuscled their second division opponents with greater comfort than suggested by a four-point margin.

Whether Gloucester can reach their first final since 1990 will depend largely on a home draw. The cup run is a bonus. Survival in the first division is the overriding priority and Hill is mindful of the need to improve. "The ball we are producing is far too slow," he said. "We wanted to play a fast game, but, every time we got it out, we got caught or spilt it. The forwards knew then they had to stick it up the jumper."

Against Greening's dynamism in the loose, the penetration of Glanville around the fringes and Gloucester's complete domination of the set-piece, Wakefield had little chance.

There were no quibbles about the scrum collapse that led to the first penalty try, but Jim Kilfoyle, the Wakefield coach, was angered by the second award, on the hour. It left Wakefield 14 points adrift after Mapletoft's fourth successful place kick.

"They went for the push and our loose-head prop held it comfortably," Kilfoyle said. "There was a small swivel and their No 1 took it down."

But for that decision, two excellent counter-attacking tries in the last eight minutes by Mike Jackson might have made a real difference. As it was, Gloucester's equilibrium was little disturbed as they erased the memory of an embarrassing cup defeat by Wakefield two years ago and took their place in the last four for a second successive year.

Although Jackson was responsible for all his side's points, the waywardness of his touch kicking and hesitancy at stand-off half gave away positions from which Gloucester scored their first and third tries. The latter was a piece of opportunism by Caskie, whose weighted kick bounced kindly for Peters, unmarked on the right wing.

After a solitary home win all season, it is little wonder that Wakefield are trying to leave College Grove. The club feels that it can prosper jointly with Wakefield Trinity rugby league club, possibly at a new site close to the proposed new Yorkshire County Cricket Club ground, near Wakefield. Without a sugar daddy, however, it will require generous assistance from the National Lottery.

Promotion is unlikely this year, with the four wealthy second division clubs — Richmond, Bedford, Newcastle and Coventry — above them, but Kilfoyle, while disappointed about their elimination, was upbeat about Wakefield's future. "There are major developments that, with the quality of our playing staff, will catapult us into the top two next year," he said.

SCORERS: Wakefield: Tries: Jackson (2). Conversion: Jackson. Penalty goals: Jackson (3). Gloucester: Tries: Peters, two penalty tries. Conversions: Mapletoft (2). Penalty goals: Mapletoft (2).

WAKEFIELD: P Massey; A McClarron, I Wynn, P Maynard, R Thompson; M Jackson, D Scully; P Lancaster, T Garnett, R Latham, P Stewart, S Croft, A Bailey, P Manley, D Hendry. Bailey replaced by J Griffiths (40min); Stewart replaced by Bailey (74); Massey replaced by P White (74); D Shuttard temporary replacement for Wynn (19-40).

GLOUCESTER: C Catling, M Peters, D Caskie, M Roberts, M Lloyd; M Mapletoft, S Benton; A Windo, P Greening, A Deacon, P Glanville, D Sims, R Fidler, N Carter, S Devereux. Mapletoft replaced by M Kimber (62); Roberts replaced by S Emmerson (64).

Referee: A Spreadbury (Somerset)



Hill: improvement needed

Sale dial M for mastery

Northampton.....9
Sale.....22

By John Hopkins

THE influence of the alphabet in rugby continues to spread. At Leicester, it is the ABC club, the famous front row. Less well known, perhaps, are the Ms at Sale — Jim Mallinder, Simon Mannix, Dewi Morris and John Mitchell.

These four men exert the influence of eight. Their enormous contributions explain why Sale defeated Northampton so conclusively to reach the semi-finals of the Pilkington Cup.

Northampton do not often lose at home, and lose without scoring a try even less often. In the car park, a Northampton supporter, who was close to tears, said: "I've been associated with rugby all my life and I have never seen a team who didn't want to play rugby."

Mallinder, the Sale captain and full back, is playing the best rugby of his life, invigorated by his inclusion in the initial party for the British Isles tour. Mannix and Morris represent a hugely experienced half-back partnership. Which of them talks more is a matter of opinion.

The greatest praise goes to Mitchell, from New Zealand, who is in his first season as coach. "He has been awesome," Mallinder said. "He had a difficult role, to take over from Paul Turner, but he has given us a harder physical and mental edge. He has brought the team together. He is a players' coach, a players' man."

Mitchell, a flanker, has brought some New Zealand realism to Sale's play. His watchwords include "Retain the ball", "Be relentless" and "Make no mistakes" — advice backed by the forward drills and hard work for which the New Zealanders are famous. "We've hit a lot of bags, do a lot of scrumming," Mitchell said. "We work under pressure. If you don't work under pressure, you are not working."

Poorly marshalled by Paul Grayson, Northampton could not breach the Sale defence. Slowly the life was squeezed out of them. In the first half Sale had four scrums on the Northampton line, exerting immense pressure. Something had to give and soon Morris dived over from in front of the lineout.

Near the end Sale attacked again and again down the narrow side, player after player taking the ball back there. Once again the pressure told and Dylan O'Grady, whom Mitchell believes should interest the Ireland selectors, plunged over for the second try.

"Mitch gives you self-belief," O'Grady said later, a trickle of blood from above his left eye running down his cheek. "He took me from being a blind-side and converted me to an open-side and taught me the increased fitness. He gives me videos to watch, talks all through a game. He is not one to slag you off. He does not shout and scream. He is straight to the point."

SCORERS: Northampton: Penalty goals: Grayson (3). Sale: Tries: Morris, O'Grady. Penalty goals: Mannix (4).

NORTHAMPTON: N Beal; I Hunter, G Townsend, J Bell, H Thomeycroft; P Grayson, M Dawson; M Volland, A Clarke, G Walsh, S Tailupu, J Chandler, M Bayfield, J Wright, T Rodber.

SALE: J Mallinder; D Rees, J Bayandell, A Hadley, T Beim; S Mannix, D Morris; P Winstanley, S Diamond, A Smith, J Mitchell, J Fowler, D Baldwin, D O'Grady, C Vyvyan.

Referee: S Piercy (Yorkshire).

Wind of change blows Pontypridd's cup quest off course

Swansea.....20
Pontypridd.....19

By Gerald Davies

THE curious statistic that Pontypridd had not won in Swansea for 25 years was unearthed this week. A quarter of a century is a long time to go without a victory. They came close to doing so on Saturday in a ruggedly competitive Swalec Cup match, but the weather and a rotten piece of luck conspired to deny them.

The strong wind blowing from the Mumbles end contrived, as ever, to divide the match into two different kinds of halves, forcing the teams to alternately struggle to make any kind of headway, then attempt to control the gentlest of kicks as they span away down a favourable gradient.

Pontypridd, the holders, played with the advantage in the first half. Their objective was clear: amass as many points as possible before the interval. After 14 minutes they were well on their way to reaching the kind of score that would test Swansea. With 13 points on the scoreboard, they were almost up with the clock and a handsome target was on the cards.

Swansea had begun well, playing a tight, controlled game with players not straying very far and keeping closely in touch with each other. Gradually, Pontypridd broke free of these shackles and Jenkins began exerting his influence. His neat kicking pinned back Swansea and his two penalty goals secured the early lead.

Then, changing direction deep in his own half, first going left but finding his way blocked, he went right and set Jason Lewis, the centre, free. Lewis moved onwards into the opposition half. When he was stopped and a mêlée formed, Eynon, the prop, emerged into space. With some 30 metres to go, shoulders hunched, knees pumping, he cut an unlikely figure with a quick sprint. Someone would surely bring him down. No one did. Charging onwards, head held high like a proud shire horse, he reached the line.

With Jenkins converting, Pontypridd were well on their way to presenting Swansea with a tough task before their good fortune changed.

They mounted yet another promising attack, but Steele Lewis's pass failed to reach Morgan on the 22-metre line and Taylor intercepted to sprint some 70 metres to score. With Thomas's conversion, the target was substantially reduced and hope faded. This was the telling moment that ultimately cost Pontypridd the game.

With Thomas kicking another penalty goal, Jenkins's two in response hardly seemed to matter. Within seven minutes of the second half Stuart Davies's try and Thomas's conversion and penalty goal gave Swansea the lead that they did not relinquish as a thrilling second half refused to yield any more points.

SCORERS: Swansea: Tries: Stuart Davies, Taylor. Conversions: A Thomas (2). Penalty goals: A Thomas (2). Pontypridd: Try: Eynon. Conversion: Jenkins. Penalty goals: Jenkins (4).

SWANSEA: M Back; W Leach, M Taylor, S Gibbs, Simon Davies; A Thomas, A Booth; I Buckett, G Jenkins, C Anthony, C Charvis, S Moore, P Arnold, D Thomas, Stuart Davies.

PONTYPRIDD: K Morgan; D Manley, J Lewis, S Lewis, P Ford; N Jenkins, P John; N Eynon, P John, A Metcalfe, M Williams, G Prosser, M Rowley, M Spiller, R Lungkong. Manley replaced by C Cormack (40min); Lungkong replaced by M Lloyd (40).

Referee: G Simmonds (Tall's Well).

☐ The Swalec Cup tie between Treorchy and Bridgend was postponed yesterday after Bridgend, whose team bus had slid off the road on the way to the match, deemed the waterlogged pitch unplayable. Nigel Whitehouse, the referee, thought play was possible, but could not, in the rules, deny Bridgend's request.

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RUGBY UNION

Saracens sink as Carling has final word

Harlequins	28
Saracens	21

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE league may be out of reach, but the fitful brilliance of Harlequins continues to illuminate the Pilkington Cup. It was only a month ago that they lost to Saracens at Enfield, but, on the Stoop Memorial Ground mudflats yesterday, their ability to inject an extra yard of pace kept their noses in front of their injury-haunted London rivals.

That it was Will Carling's second try that ensured a place in the semi-final draw today was, in a sense, coincidental; when they needed continuity, Harlequins found it on an energy-sapping surface from nobody more than Laurent Cabannes, their French back-row forward. He is a remarkable player and that Saracens produced one to match him in Tony Diprose was immensely to their credit.

Diprose may be frustrated in his personal failure to make that final leap to full international status, but his domination of the loose ball yesterday was outstanding. He scored the second of his side's two tries and breathed life into a XV deprived of Richard Hill by a training accident (an ankle injury that should have mended by the time England play France on Saturday) and of three World Cup finalists during the 80 minutes — Francois Pienaar was followed to the changing room in the second half by Michael Lynagh and Tony Daly.

Yet Saracens looked the more likely winners when they turned round, to take the strong wind, trailing only 13-8. Had Pienaar, in particular, remained on the field, it might have made a difference, but a damaged hamstring, which may keep him out for a month, not only removed him but also allowed Jenkins to burst clear and send in Carling for a morale-boosting try immediately after the interval.

Both sides produced a high-quality game in such awkward conditions, though Saracens are now left only with a place in Europe on their agenda. "We will need to go up a gear or two if we are to win the cup," Dick Best, the Harlequins director of rugby, said, but at least he knows that extra element is there, typified by an all-consuming tackle by Mensah on Sella as Saracens went for the score that would have sent the tie into extra time.

Harlequins did not make as much of the wind as they might have done. A penalty try was some reward — given after Saracens had conceded five consecutive penalties at a scrum five metres from their line and finally wheeled illegally — but Lynagh, chipping three times, created enough uncertainty in the Harlequins defence for Sella to win a touchdown immediately before half-time.

Lynagh added two penalty goals before his departure and, though Lacroix responded, he was not at the top of his goal-kicking form. So it was Cabannes, with a brilliant, twisting run from deep in his own half, who created the game's seminal moment. Racing clear of the cover, he found Davison and Snow at hand, with the pace of O'Leary finishing off from 30 metres.

Saracens were set back on their heels, yet found inspiration from Diprose, their captain. Diprose rolled clear of a lineout, Richard Wallace plunged into midfield and, from the ruck, Lee threw a long pass to the right wing, where Diprose, like some conjurer, seized the moment, which Lee embellished. At 23-18, the game teetered, but, with Saracens committed to attack, Keyter snaffled a loose pass, made 60 metres and found Carling at his elbow for what proved to be the decisive try.

SCORERS: Harlequins: Tries: Carling (2), O'Leary, penalty try. Conversion: Lacroix. Penalty goals: Lacroix (2). Saracens: Tries: Sella, Diprose. Conversion: Lee. Penalty goals: Lynagh (2), Lee.
HARLEQUINS: J Staples; D O'Leary, P Mensah, W Carling, J Keyter; T Lacroix, H Harries; L Benezech, P Delaney, J Leonard, R Jenkins, A Snow, Gareth Llewellyn, W Davison, L Cabannes. Delaney replaced by T Billups (67min).
SARACENS: A Tunningley; R Wallace, P Sella, S Ravenscroft, K Chesney; M Lynagh, K Bracken; A Daly, C Olver, P Wallace, G Clark, P Johns, A Copsey, F Pienaar, A Diprose. Pienaar replaced by C Yandell (43); Lynagh replaced by A Lee (59); Daly replaced by A Oliver (60).
Referee: S Lander (Liverpool).


HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Carling bursts through the centre once again as Harlequins put Saracens under pressure at the Stoop Memorial Ground yesterday

O'Meara named as Ireland ring changes

BY KARL JOHNSTON

IN THE wake of the heavy defeat inflicted by England, the Ireland selectors have made four changes — three of them enforced — and a positional switch in the team to play Scotland at Murrayfield on Saturday.

Niall Hogan has been demoted to the Ireland A side, and James Topping was not considered, because of concussion, which makes way for Brian O'Meara at scrum half and allows Jonathan Bell to move from centre to left wing.

The only alteration in the pack means a recall for Ben Cronin at No 8. He takes over from Eric Miller, who is concussed.

Eric Elwood's knee ligament problem has not recovered and he was not considered, along with Topping and Miller. Topping was likely to be omitted, in any event, for, as Pat Whelan, the team manager, pointed out at the team announcement yesterday, "the left wing position has been leaking tries" this season.

David Humphreys, who replaced Elwood against England, remains at stand-off half. That leaves the goal-kicking responsibility open to conjecture, for Humphreys is not as consistent a kicker as Elwood or Paul Burke.

Kurt McQuilkin, who has three caps, is also recalled and will partner Maurice Field in the centre. O'Meara won his first cap as a late replacement against England and is preferred to Steve McIvor, who is the reserve scrum half.

Cronin's only previous cap was won, coincidentally, against Scotland in the equivalent match two years ago. Cronin has a knee injury and was not able to play for Garryowen in the Insurance Corporation League match against Cork Constitution on Saturday.

Bell has already played for Ireland at left wing, against the United States and Scotland two seasons ago.

Whelan said that Cronin was picked at No 8 in order not to disrupt the tight five by moving Paddy Johns from the second row. He added that Nick Popplewell has a hamstring strain and will be examined when the squad assembles in Limerick today.

A new face among the replacements is that of Gavin Walsh, the Northampton prop. He played for Ireland A against England A at Donnybrook, while Paul Flavin was the reserve prop on the senior side: but now the roles have been reversed, as Flavin is named in the A team and Walsh appears to have been promoted.

All training sessions will be closed, at the request of the team management.

There are eight full internationals in the Ireland A team to play Scotland A at Myreside on Friday. They are Ciaran Clarke, Dominic Crotty, Niall Woods, Niall Hogan, Paul Flavin, Mick Galwey, Eddie Halvey and Anthony Foley. Two other fully-capped players — Richard Wallace and Henry Hurley — are among the replacements.

IRELAND

J E Staples (Harlequins, captain); D A Hickie (St Mary's College), M J Field (Malone), K P McQuilkin (Lansdowne), J C Bell (Northampton); D G Humphreys (London Irish), B T O'Meara (Cork Constitution); N J Popplewell (Newcastle), R P Nesdale (Newcastle), P S Wallace (Saracens), D S Corkery (Bristol), P S Johns (Saracens), J W Davidson (London Irish), W D McBride (Malone), B Cronin (Garryowen). Replacements: C M P O'Shea (London Irish), P A Burke (Bristol), S C McIvor (Garryowen), G M Fulcher (London Irish), G Walsh (Northampton), A T H Clarke (Northampton).

Ufton ensures Wasps maintain pace at the top

Wasps	36
West Hartlepool	12

BY A CORRESPONDENT

WHAT might appear to have been a comfortable victory for Wasps was, for large parts, anything but at a windy Sudbury yesterday afternoon. West Hartlepool, beaten 48-23 at home by Wasps a fortnight ago, gave a much better account of themselves than the scoreline suggests.

With only three victories in the league all season, West chose to face the wind in the first half and, after turning round 24-7 behind, Stephen John went over for his second try eight minutes into the second period.

There was consternation in the home crowd at that moment, but Wasps took play upfield and, after a pushover attempt had resulted in a penalty being awarded, Andy Gomarsall, the England scrum half, fed Jon Ufton for the decisive score.

West failed to use the wind to great effect — Wasps had been guilty of the same crime before the break — and, six minutes from time, the margin between the sides became greater courtesy of a sixth Wasps try from Guy Gregory, the stand-off half.

Wasps had made hard work of building up an early advantage after Andy Reed, the lock, had barged over in the fifth minute. A penalty try, converted by Gareth Rees, made it 12-0 after 15 minutes, but, two minutes later, a pass by Rees was intercepted by Stephen John, who raced the length of the field to touch down.

Wasps managed only two more scores in the first half, courtesy of Rees and Chris Sheasby.

Afterwards, Lawrence Dallaglio, the Wasps captain, said: "We have one hand on the league and the message is: 'If you want it, come and get it off us.' That was a very difficult game to play in, especially once we lost the toss. They are a half-decent side."

Rob Smith, the coach, added: "I was very pleased with how we played in the second half. We scrummage well, the back row were sensible and not too flamboyant and Andy Gomarsall marshalled them well.

"We're probably six points away now from qualifying for Europe next season and it would be nice to secure that so that we can then focus solely on trying to win the league."

SCORERS: Wasps: Tries: Gregory, Reed, Rees, Sheasby, Ufton, penalty try. Conversions: Rees (3). West Hartlepool: Tries: S John (2). Conversion: C John.
WASPS: G Rees, J Ufton, N Greenstock, R Henderson, S Rosser; G Gregory, A Gomarsall, D Molloy, S Mitchell, W Green, L Dallaglio, D Cronin, A Reed, M White, C Sheasby.
WEST HARTLEPOOL: M Silva, M Wood, L Botham, J Connolly, S John, C John, M Roderick, D Barnes, M Kennedy, W de Jongo, J Ions, C Murphy, L Frances, M Emerson, I Morgan
Referee: C White (Gloucester)

Cup's stock proves weak

Sudbury	20
Broadstreet	13

BY BARRY TROWBRIDGE

EIGHT minutes of total commitment is hardly enough edifying fare to serve up if rugby union is to establish a permanent place in sport's rich marketplace, but that is more or less what these sides produced in Suffolk on Saturday in the quarter-finals of the Intermediate Cup, and it should be of concern to the financiers of Epruc that clubs that present this standard of play with Twickenham two matches away are on the fringe of national recognition.

Representatives of London I and Midland I, respectively — the next step up is to the national fourth division — Sudbury and Broadstreet were the only clubs from such an elevated level left vying for a place in the semi-finals, yet did little more than go through the motions until Broadstreet, from the eastern outskirts of Coventry, pulled level in the 72nd minute and set up a finale worthy of the definition.

Realising that the prize may be snatched from them, Sudbury responded and worked Dick Sumner over, Mark Jury's inside pass ensuring that the try was in an eminently convertable position.

As he had done earlier in the half with two penalty goals, John Cowling stroked the ball sweetly between the uprights and his pack did the rest by denying Broadstreet good-quality possession from a couple of five-metre scrums deep into added time.

At Broadstairs, things were even closer as Thanet Wanderers needed extra time to extend their winning run this season to 22 games with a 30-26 victory over Cinderford. Given a second chance because Colchester, their conquerors in the sixth round, were disqualified for fielding an ineligible player, Cinderford led 23-18 going into the final minute of normal time, only for Mario Meyer, on the Thanet left wing, to tie things up with a try in the corner and Elliott Stokes, his partner on the right, to grab what proved to be the deciding score eight minutes into the extra period.

SCORERS: Sudbury: Tries: Atherton, Sumner. Conversions: Cowling (2). Penalty goals: Cowling (2). Broadstreet: Tries: Henderson, Stone. Penalty goal: Rogers.
SUDBURY: J Cowling; G Evans, R Sumner, J Sinclair, D Beenland; M Jury, S Harries; A Hogeberg, M Burman, R Ward, D Williams, I Howlet, S Pimegia, S Leonard, G Atherton. Hogeberg replaced by F Banks (69min).
BROADSTREET: C Rogers, L Henderson, S Allen, J Warne, A Phillips; R Scanlon, J Brewster; L Campbell, T Harrison, B Sheasby, C Gardner. N Bones, A Stone, C Harrison, D Cummins. Harrison replaced by J Gardner (57).
Referee: G Gregson (Manchester).

£20m shirt deal for rugby

BY DAVID HANDS

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU) will confirm later this week a new kit deal said to be worth up to £20 million over the next five years, one that includes among its conditions special matches featuring leading players.

Nike, the leisurewear company that had an earlier, rugby boots association with the RFU, has taken over from Cotton Traders, which had four years of its ten-year contract still to run. However, the English rugby public may be wary of the possibility of a fifth design appearing on the replica market next September, when the new arrangement takes effect.

The agreement involves a fourth party in Cellnet, the mobile telephone company that sponsors the England team and whose logo appeared on the England shirt for the first time this season. Fran Cotton, the former England prop who established Cotton Traders and who will manage the British Isles in South Africa this summer, said: "All four parties are happy with the arrangement, but the financial details will remain confidential."

The RFU is known to have been unhappy for some time with the arrangement over the national shirt, and there has been criticism of some designs. Many supporters disapproved of a move away from the traditional all-white jersey and the commercial implications of the new deal will be scrutinised closely.

The England squad have yet to sign playing contracts with the RFU and the players will be curious as to their involvement. RFU sources suggest that they may be asked to appear in additional matches in a season already far too crowded.

☐ Phil de Glanville, the England captain, has dismissed fears that injury could rule him out of the five nations' match against France at Twickenham on Saturday. De Glanville will undergo intensive ice-pack treatment on his left ankle, which he twisted during Bath's punishing league victory over Bristol on Saturday.

Previous winners lead race for junior tour spots

BY MEL WEBB

WITH less than a week to go, applications for places on the Daihatsu Junior Golf Tour (JGT) have reached the 700 mark, and with no more than ordinary luck the total should top 1,000 before the deadline of March 1.

The JGT, which is being run in association with The Times, is thus already assured of success in its first year of sponsorship by Daihatsu, but Colin Springate, the tournament director, is still encouraging applications. "We want to emphasise that everybody will be equally considered," he said.

Brave words by Springate, bearing in mind the unenviable task that faces him. There are spaces for only 72 under-18 golfers on each of the three tours — national, south and north — and Springate is going to have to disappoint many, particularly those in the national and south sections. He is still particularly keen to encourage applications for the northern section, being staged for the first time this year.

An entry on behalf of Tom Williams, a pupil at Sherborne School, was filed by his father, a British Army colonel who heard of the competition despite serving at Fort Leavenworth, in Kansas, where he is a liaison officer in the Combined Forces Unit.

Eighty who played last year have submitted entries, including the winners — Karl Johnson, Robert Oldaker and Martyn Lewis — all of whom have applied for places on the national tour.

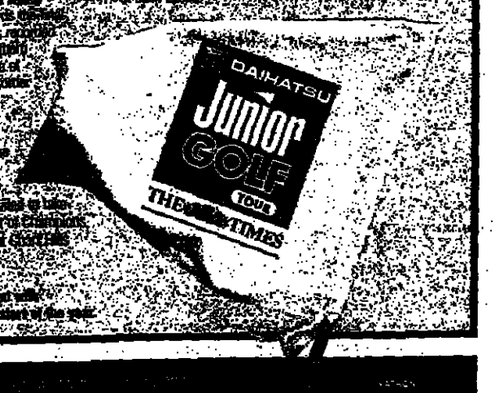
The boys who eventually win places will be given more than the mere opportunities to play. Paul Morrissey, an osteopath and sports injury consultant, and Chris Linstead, a sports psychologist, have offered their services.

Meanwhile, players at the first of two tournaments to be staged on a trial basis for girls will be boosted by the support of Lora Fairclough, the Solheim Cup professional. Fairclough will stage a clinic and give a talk to the competitors at Mere Golf Club on April 1.



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Expanding indoor sport presents case for recognition at Olympic level

Tug-of-war exerts pulling power on dedicated athletes

David Powell meets competitors who claim that they are living like Trappist monks in pursuit of success

After a day at the world indoor tug-of-war championships in Torbay, it was hard to disagree with Tug (yes, really) Lawson. "The popular concept of tug-of-war is of Michelin men tumbling out of a pub but, as you can see, they are athletes, all bone and sinew, fighting weight," Lawson, 47 years in the sport, said.

I saw Wendy Colclough's hands close-up and doubted whether the barefoot Zola Budd had ever abused her feet so. I listened to Leo Conway and wondered whether Steven Redgrave would last a week of his training. Both are representative of a sport gathering momentum, of growing numbers of dedicated participants.

Colclough was a member of the England bronze-medal-winning eight in the 480 kilogram category. Her hands were a mass of disfiguring callouses, no clue to her profession. She makes delicate lingerie and, before returning to work, will do a patch-up job with nail-clippers and files. "Normally, women file their nails, but we have to file our skin," Tracey Johnson, Colclough's sister and fellow puller, said.

Diane Richards is Colclough's other sister and all three compete, women in their late twenties and thirties, not unattractive (hands excepted), not the type one associates with the shot putt circle, trained athletes. Johnson and Richards won medals in the 520 kilogram category.

To be ready for Torbay, Conway and others in the Ireland 600 kilogram team trained for five months, four nights a week, 7.30 to 11.00, and Sunday mornings.

Although the sport now has competitors from various walks of life, the Ireland team, a squad from Dundalk, is a throwback to the old days.

The roots of tug-of-war are in farming, and the Ireland eight are all farmers. Their training involves pulling barrels of cement over a derrick, eight men lifting 104 stone.

Ask Conway "why bother?", and he will show you his gold medal from Saturday. No team can win unless it is as close as dammit to weight, and Hugh, Leo's brother, the trainer, knows his pullers so well that, for a warm-up competition, when the 560 kilogram team weighed 1.5 kilos too heavy, he sent them out for an 11-minute run because he knew that was what was needed to make the weight. They came back and weighed exactly 560 kilograms.

"When we train for these championships, there is no drink," Leo Conway said. "We live like Trappist monks. Our team lives for tug-of-war. If you took tug-of-war out of my life and Hughie's, we would have nothing to talk about."

Tug-of-war was an Olympic sport from 1900 to 1920 and is lobbying to return. It argues its case on the grounds of it remaining truly amateur, its growth to 25 member federations of the Tug of War International Federation (TWIF), its clean record on drug testing, and good disciplinary record.

"We are one of the best disciplined sports in the world," Mike Parsons, the assistant secretary of the (England) Tug of War Association, said. "There is the utmost respect between puller and judge. I have been involved for 25 years and I am aware of only three cases where action had to be taken." Whereas outdoor world championships have been held since 1975, the indoor equivalent was begun only in 1991, a reaction to demand. "Many competitors come from a farming background and are tied up with crops in summer, so the indoor sport was an attractive alternative," Cathal McKeever, a vice-president of TWIF, said.

"Now we have teachers, factory workers, office workers. The image is of people rolling up their sleeves and tucking their socks into their trousers, but that is anathema to people in the sport. The athletes here are as professional as people in any branch of sport as far as commitment, dedication and training is concerned."

Tug-of-war, strange but true, is a constituent part of the British Athletic Federation (BAF). "We are a field sport and the Americans call it track and field," McKeever said. "The fact that we have a commission within BAF is important to us because our image is enchanced by our association with BAF." Which is probably the kindest thing that anybody has said about the beleagured BAF in a very long time.

Tug-of-war has disciples in Taiwan and their squad is coached by the Reverend Luke Tsai, a Presbyterian minister. The rope, according to the minister, symbolises happiness among mankind. "Let our love be round like the rope and our friendship last forever," he said in his team handbook. There is no mention what calloused hands may mean.

TIM CUFF



Holland, top, take on England in the 600 kilogram class at the world championships

SAILING

Law breaking new ground on the water

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

CHRIS LAW, the most experienced match-racer in Great Britain, has made a lot of mistakes in his life and he makes no effort to hide them. He comes across as aggressive, gritty and, at times, arrogant — all of which make him a formidable opponent on the water, but not the most immediately likeable of characters.

These days Law, whose career spans 25 years and includes involvement in three America's Cups, has the new-found zeal of a man who knows that he has given himself a last chance to add some lustre to his sailing career. At 44 the thirst for more success and further recognition is driving him on like a man possessed.

At the same time Law is doing his best to reposition himself to suit the new mood of a sport that is being taken over by younger, less complicated and more straightforwardly enthusiastic people, who tend to regard him and his ilk as embodying the attitudes of the older generation.

Law, who once emigrated to Australia and is resident in Bermuda for much of the time, talks of wanting to be at the heart of sailing in this country and trying to be part of that new era. As he points out, British sailing, at the top level, had a justifiable reputation for being "bitchy and back-biting". One wonders, though, how easy it will be for a man who thrived in those conditions to make the transition.

The key is the next America's Cup and Law's belief that, if the Royal Dorset Challenge should ever amount to anything, then he is "the right guy to skipper a boat". With that in mind, he is taking a team to Auckland for a mini America's Cup regatta at the end of next month, though he admits his participation at this stage may have no bearing on who might skipper a boat in 2000.

"I belong in England," he said. "No matter whether I live in Bermuda, the dream is to see a successful British America's Cup challenge. We, in the past, could be said to have squandered our opportunities in the America's Cup ... we all feel a need to not waste this one."

Law's claim to lead the campaign on the water is certainly a strong one. In match-racing, he is enjoying a new lease of life and is ranked seventh in the world, after winning the Australia Cup in Perth, the first event of the year. He has extensive big-boat experience and was an Admiral's Cup-winning helmsman in 1977.

There are doubts, however. Law has had more ups and downs than most — at one point he gave up sailing altogther for four years — and he has found the pressure of winning in the clinch hard to take. Now he says he is mentally stronger and wiser. There must, though, be questions about his readiness to share the limelight with others.

He will find it difficult to fend off the claims of Lawrie Smith, who is distracted from match-racing by his Whitbread campaign, or Andy Beadsworth, who will be on board Law's boat in Auckland and who will provide the perfect opportunity for Law to demonstrate that he can work with individuals whom he views as potential rivals.

The choice of skipper for 2000 is academic without £15 million in place to make it possible, and there is no sign of the money yet. Law, meanwhile, is concentrating on match-racing in an effort to establish himself in the top three in the world.

This year he will sail in most of the grade one events



Law: stronger

with a team likely to include Andy Hemmings, Julian Salter, James Stagg and occasional appearances by Ben Ainslie, Britain's Olympic silver medal-winner, who was a "breeze-spotter" in Perth.

Among those standing in Law's path will again be the New Zealand "dream team" led by Russell Coutts, who beat him consistently last year, but Law feels that he is getting more focused and stronger all the time.

"We want to win four grand prix events this year," he said. "I've never felt that I've reached my potential — I want to get into that zone with the support of the team I've got around me."

Ainslie clearly did not blot his copybook in Perth, and Law is happy to give him more opportunities. "He'll love to sail again," he said. "What I can do is give him big boat experience without any pressure on him. I'm big enough and ugly enough and he can sit behind me and learn."

CYCLING

Injured Manning out of tour

PAUL MANNING, of Great Britain, was forced to pull out of the Tour of Langkawi, in Malaysia, after a heavy fall on the fourth stage yesterday (Peter Bryan writes). Manning was unable to avoid four riders who crashed in front of him as they took a sharp right-hand bend on a descent.

Tony Barry, the Britain team manager, said: "Fortunately, Paul has broken no bones, but he lost a lot of skin from his back, arms and legs and finished the stage by ambulance." Manning, fourth in the opening time-trial stage on Wednesday, was expected to fly home today. Dave Rand, Britain's road race champion, and Julian Winn were also in trouble, both suffering from severe stomach upsets.

The first important split on the 159-kilometre route around the environs of Kuala Lumpur came after 63 kilometres, when a group of five set off after Carlo Jazul, of the Philippines, three minutes ahead.

Jazul was finally overhauled and the quintet's advantage reached 12 minutes before the strong Italian Mapei squad responded, towing almost the entire field behind them. The fugitives were caught ten kilometres from the end. In a mass sprint, the Italians proved a spent force and victory went to Andreas Waltzer, of Germany, with the peloton all given the same time of 3hr 47min 55sec.

John Tanner, who finished with the main pack, remains Britain's best rider overall, 2min 17sec behind Frank McCormack, of the United States, the race leader.

The 71-kilometre stage today, from Bukit Kiara to Genting Highlands, is vital for Matthew Postle, who has a 12-point lead in the king of the mountains competition after winning two climbs on Saturday.

ICE HOCKEY

Violence brings early finish

A MASSED brawl between the players of Kingston Hawks and Telford Tigers caused the premier league match at Hull on Saturday to be abandoned.

The trouble started even before the game with players fighting during the warm-up. After just 24 seconds Norman Pinnington, of the Hawks, and Mark Pallister, of the Tigers, were thrown out for fighting by Dave Cloutman, the referee. A few seconds later Bobby McEwan, the assistant coach of the Hawks, was also given his marching orders.

Fearing crowd trouble, rink officials called Humberside police and the match was abandoned after 13 minutes with the scores level at 2-2. The Telford players were escorted to the team bus by police.

The trouble had apparently carried over from the match between the teams at Telford on Thursday, when Pallister, a cousin of the Manchester United and England footballer, was alleged to have made racist comments to Pinnington. Pallister has picked up an automatic one-match ban for fighting, while Pinnington has been suspended for two games after appearing to head-butt his rival.

The British Ice Hockey Association will review video footage of the incidents and premier league officials will discuss what action to take at their scheduled meeting on Thursday.

Newcastle Cobras did their best to spoil the celebrations at the Wales National Ice Rink, gaining a 4-3 victory in overtime on Saturday after Cardiff Devils had taken delivery of the Superleague trophy secured two days earlier.

Cardiff, never more than a goal down, forced overtime with a goal from Marty Kewchuk before Markku Takala settled the match by completing his hat-trick.

Dancing attendants with young at heart

BY RUTH GLEDHILL

ONE of the most promising youth partnerships on the British competitive ballroom dancing scene is that of Lee Portas and Joanne Spencer, both 17.

Portas and Spencer, the granddaughter of Peggy Spencer, the *grande dame* of British dancing, look likely to represent England in the world youth championships later this year.

However, as ballroom dancing moves closer to Olympic recognition, expected this September, what is significant about Portas and his rapid rise through the ranks is that he is one of a new generation of young British dancers that is starting to emerge from the state school system.

Portas now goes to the world's top coaches, including Robert Grover, the former world modern champion, and Carol MacRaild, the former world Latin finalist.

However, he was first put on his feet by Jimmy Welch, of Welling, Kent, who is dedicating his professional career to helping children to learn to dance.

Welch, a former county over-35 champion, teaches weekly classes of children, from nursery age upwards, at the Hook Lane Primary School, in Welling, and at other schools in the area. If he spots exceptional talent, as in the case of Portas, he sends them to bigger stables in the hope that they might become champions.

As dance is part of the physical curriculum for all ages, increasing numbers of children are learning the basics of dance and movement in PE lessons.

At Hook Lane, Welch's tuition is supplementary to the curriculum, but is strongly backed by Christine Richmond, the new headmistress.

The school takes sport seriously. Its football team is one of the best in the local league and a former Kent cricket coach visits regularly. The school will hope to take part in Top Sport, a new government initiative, in which children will be taught at an early age the basics of sports such as rugby and tennis.

The trick, though, in ballroom dancing, which has yet to achieve the television exposure of more traditional sports, is to spark children's interest. Welch said: "We start by getting them hooked on Spice Girls. Then we put in a bit of cha-cha-cha to modern music." After that, they are given the rudimentaries of the waltz and the social foxtrot. By then, many want to know more.

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

Welch never mentions his own studio in the classes, because he believes that children should go only as far as they want, and must never be pushed into any competitive sport by ambitious coaches or parents, but, if any volunteer has a wish to go further, he will help them into classes. He will also introduce them to open competitions between his school and others in the area, competitions in which there is no dress code and so cost is kept low.

One couple, Natalie Denby and Russell Meachem, both 12, who started this way, are now hoping to make a mark nationally by taking part in events such as Philip Wylie's competition at Southall next month.

Even for those who do not proceed to competitive dancing, however, the benefits are incalculable. Apart from equipping them with confidence for the social dance floor, Welch said: "They learn co-ordination, which is the prime benefit. They learn balance, especially when we teach them to spin. Most people tend to dance from the knee when they start, but, once they learn to use their legs and hips properly, it helps in other areas, such as in their poise."

The work that Welch and Delena Dunster, his colleague, who teaches the youngest children, are doing is invaluable. Dancers throughout Britain are pleading for greater investment in the junior and juvenile grades because, once dominant, British couples are now taking second place or lower at events such as the forthcoming Blackpool junior dance festival, which begins on Easter Monday.

Most of the 200-plus couples there will be from abroad, and, although Britain can at present boast the top professional modern couple in Marcus and Karen Hilton, the irony is that, by the time the sport is on the Olympic agenda, talented juniors from countries such as Lithuania and Sweden will have reached adulthood. If present form is a guide, they could then be dominating the world rankings, depriving Great Britain of Olympic gold medals, a future that teachers aiming to build up ballroom dancing in schools are striving to avoid.

JULIAN HERBERT



Claire Jeive, left, and Jessica Gra[illegible]th eight, take to the floor at the school in Welling

Dein goes in search of the floating vote at Arsenal

TONIGHT, in a small community hall in the shadow of the North Bank at Highbury, a meeting will take place that could be the catalyst for one of the most exciting developments in football finance yet to take place — the flotation of Arsenal Football Club. If Arsenal do come to market, and it is far from certain that they will, it will be the biggest float yet: bigger than Newcastle United, bigger than Aston Villa and, with an estimated capitalisation of more than £250 million, will create the second largest quoted club after Manchester United.

Arsenal have flirted with floating for the past couple of years. The club is still smarting from the debacle that surrounded the funding of the rebuilding of the North Bank, when the £22 million was raised through a highly unpopular bond scheme. Shortly afterwards David Dein, the Arsenal vice-chairman, approached Merrill Lynch, Manchester United's stockbrokers, to see if they could float Arsenal. He was told that the City would not like the idea of providing money if Arsenal wanted to spend it only on players. The club had to have a project that needs the sort of cash that a float could provide.

Now it has one. Attempting to buy a ticket for games at Highbury this season has been a frustrating experience. Apart from a couple of cup games, the sold-out signs have gone up many weeks in advance. Tickets for the match against Manchester United last Wednesday were snapped up within a couple of hours of going on sale in late December. Arsenal are desperate to increase the 38,000 capacity of Highbury and that is where the meeting tonight comes in.

THE BUSINESS OF SPORT



Highbury is the ultimate inner-city ground. Located in the middle of an increasingly affluent residential part of north London, it has little room to expand. Its art deco East and West stands are listed by English Heritage as being of significant historic interest and the idea of filling in the corners is not favoured as it could ruin the Highbury pitch. Against this background, architects from the Lobb Partnership have been trying to find a way to put a quart into a pint pot.

After consulting with Islington council, a plan is being put before Highbury residents. This is believed to involve redeveloping first the East, then the West, and finally the South stands. The idea is that new cantilever roofs could increase the capacity and allow Arsenal to build new executive boxes, something that they failed to do when rebuilding the North Bank.

The issue of boxes may be why Arsenal are reluctant to develop the South Stand, or the Clock End as Arsenal traditionalists call it, where there are 50 executive boxes leased out on ten-year deals that mature at the end of the 1997-98 season. Arsenal could easily sell them on new ten-year leases, receiving £500,000 each. In this way, it could raise £25 million and pay for the majority of the redevelopment.

This pool of finance is at the heart of some of the arguments in the Arsenal boardroom. Dein favours a float, but the Carr family, which has two seats on the board and holds 28 per cent of the shares, is strongly opposed to going public. If the club can raise the money by other means — and the recent investment in Rangers by Joe Lewis, the Bahamas-based billionaire, shows that there is money around without having a listing — then Arsenal may not float.

That would be a shame. Well supported and well branded clubs such as Arsenal and Liverpool are just the sort of clubs that serious investors would like to see on the market, never mind the likes of Charlton Athletic, Heart of Midlothian and West Bromwich Albion.

JASON NISSE

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

Cross country

NAIROBI: IAAF world cross challenge: Men: 1, P Koech (Ken) 35min 02.59sec; 2, J Kibor (Ken) 35.09.40; 3, P Tergat (Ken) 35 23 01; 4, K Kosgey (Ken) 35.27.21; 5, J Cheiang'a (Ken) 35.30.44. Women: 1, J Omoro (Ken) 27min 36.44sec; 2, S Barsosio (Ken) 27.43.07; 3, L Chemomet (Ken) 27.58.73; 4, F Barsosio (Ken) 28 05.43; 5, E Kiplagat (Ken) 28.15.28.

BIRMINGHAM: Birmingham and District League: First division: 1, R Burchell (Birchfield) 30min 28sec; 2, S Wilkinson (Stourport) 30.46; 3, D Payne (Tipton) 31.01. Team: Tipton.

COULSDON: Surrey League: First division: 1, G Staines (Belgrave) 27min 03sec; 2, A Marriot (Hercules Wimbledon) 27.51. 3, D Mead (Belgrave) 27.56. Team: Belgrave.

DEEPCUT, Surrey: Inter-Services championships: Men: 1, Cpl M Flint (RAF) 33min 08sec; 2, Cpl A Arrand (Army) 33.37; 3, Cpl M Crossdale (RN) 33.51. Team: Army. Women: 1, Capt S Higgs (Army) 20.07; 2, Sig S Morris (Army) 20.39; 3, Sgt S Sharp (Army) 20.51. Team: Army.

Road running

SEVILLE, Spain: International marathon: Men: 1, A Molina (Sp) 2hr 17min 43sec; 2, J Mutai (Ken) 2:18:47; 3, M Filigy (Mor) 2:19:30. Women: 1, A Kosacheva (Russ) 2hr 41min 18sec; 2, M McCallum (Sp) 2:52:33; 3, A Montiel (Sp) 3:04:10.

Indoor

BIRMINGHAM: Grand prix meeting: Men: 60m: 1, A Boldon (Trin) 6.48; 2, D Ezeiwa (Nigeria) 6.53; 3, R Stewart (Jam) 6.55. 200m: 1, Boldon 20.35; 2, G Moen (Nor) 20.47; 3, D Turner (GB) 20 66. 400m: 1, J Bauich (GB) 45.74; 2, G Bullock (GB) 46.35; 3, S Bada (Nigeria) 46.36. 800m: 1, V Rodahl (Nor) 1:45.28; 2, M Koers (Holl) 1:46.86; 3, V Matalkwan (Ken) 1:46.91. 3,000m: 1, M Kiptanui (Ken) 7:39.78; 2, B Jebbour (Mor) 7:40.61; 3, E Hassane Hissani (Mor) 7:41.94. 60m hurdles: 1, A Garcia (Cuba) 7.48; 2, C Jackson (GB) 7.52; 3, C Hawkins (US) 7.63. High jump: 1, S Smith (GB) 2.34; 2, S Hoen (Nor) 2.26; 3 equal, D Grant (GB) and L Papaioannas (Gr) 2.25. Long jump: 1, I Pedroso (Cuba) 8.17m; 2, J Beckford (Jam) 8.10; 3, K Sosunov (Russ) 8.08. Women: 60m: 1, C Opara-Thompson (Nigeria) 7.08sec; 2, M Otley (Jam) 7.10; 3, E Ojokolu (Nigeria) 7.17. 400m: 1, Opara-Thompson 51.21; 2, P Smith (GB) 51.69; 3, C Akabaki (Nig) 52.15. 800m: 1, L Vriesde (Sur) 1min 59.21sec; 2, N Dukhrova (Bela) 2:00.06; 3, M Ewarloff (Swe) 2:02.40. 60m hurdles: 1, M Freemen (Jam) 7.84; 2, B Bukovac (Slovenia) 7.97; 3, M Morrison (US) 7.98. High jump: 1, H Haugland (Nor) 1.95; 2, D Mann (GB) 1.95; 3, S Zalevskaya (Kaz) 1.92. Triple jump: 1, A Hansen (GB) 14.57; 2, R Petrescu-Matee (Rom) 14.56; 3, Y Aldama (Cuba) 14.20. Pole vault: 1, G Mihaiova (Rom) 4.10m; 2, E Szemeredi (Hun) 4.00; 3, J Whitlock (GB) 3.90.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA). Friday: Charlotte 114 LA Clippers 99, Detroit 98 New Jersey 84; Atlanta 76 Houston 74; Orlando 99 Denver 86; Portland 114 Miami 110; Minnesota 101 Golden State 82; Chicago 103 Washington 99; San Antonio 98 Milwaukee 93; Phoenix 94 Cleveland 88; Seattle 84 New York 84; LA Lakers 99 Vancouver 81. Saturday: Philadelphia 97 Portland 80; Charlotte 93 Atlanta 92; Chicago 120 Golden State 87; Dallas 98 Toronto 92.

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	41	13	.759	—
New York	39	16	.722	2
Orlando	26	25	.510	13½
Washington	24	29	.453	16½
New Jersey	15	38	.283	25½
Philadelphia	14	39	.264	26½
Boston	11	42	.208	29½

Central division

Chicago	48	6	.889	—
Detroit	38	13	.750	8
Atlanta	35	18	.660	12½
Charlotte	34	27	.618	14½
Cleveland	29	29	.558	18
Indiana	25	27	.481	22
Milwaukee	25	28	.472	22½
Toronto	18	36	.333	30

Western Conference

Midwest division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	38	14	.731	—
Houston	35	18	.648	4
Minnesota	27	27	.500	12
Dallas	18	33	.353	19½
Denver	17	36	.309	22½
San Antonio	13	39	.250	25
Vancouver	11	46	.193	29½

Pacific division

LA Lakers	38	15	.717	—
Seattle	37	15	.712	½
Portland	29	26	.527	10
Sacramento	24	30	.444	14½
LA Clippers	21	29	.420	15½
Golden State	20	32	.385	17½
Phoenix	20	35	.364	19

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Cardiff 72 Coventry 105; Mid Sussex 61 Bury and Bolton 73; Nottingham 77 Stockton 86; Oxford 84 Plymouth 93; Solent 62 Westminster 87. Second division: Chessington 77 Solihull 83; Flintshire 68 South Wales 80; Northampton 72 South Bank 82; Sheffield 85 Derby 84; Slough 86 Aston 59. Women: First division: Hanesdan 47 Barking and Dagenham 51; Ipswich 92 London 31; Northampton 63 Thames Valley 63; Nottingham 57 Rhondda 67; Sheffield 73 Birmingham 36; Spelthorne 58 Crystal Palace 70. Second division: Leicester 81 Plymouth 41; Manchester 52 Chelmsford 40; Oxford 45 Tyne and Wear 60.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Friday: Sheffield 84 Leopards 86, Newcastle 73 London 78. Saturday: Derby 95 Crystal Palace 105, Leicester 105 Chester 87; Manchester 99 Hemel and Watford 58, Worthing 98 Birmingham 110. Yesterday: London Towers 93 Thames Valley 85.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Birmingham	26	19	7	2295	2135	38
London T	24	18	6	2070	1882	36
* Sheffield	24	18	6	2124	1884	36
* Chester	26	17	9	2242	2126	34
* Leopards	24	17	7	2224	2116	34
* Manchester	27	16	11	2128	1959	32
* Newcastle	26	14	12	2303	2257	28
Leicester	24	12	12	2076	2013	24
* Derby	26	11	15	2272	2306	22
Worthing	26	8	18	2174	2355	16
Thames Valley	25	7	18	2280	2332	14
Crystal Palace	26	5	21	1958	2189	10
Hemel and W	26	2	24	2156	2728	4

* not including last night's matches

BOWLS

BELFAST: Waterford, Crystal International: Ireland 277 Channel Islands 217.

LIBERTY TROPHY: Semi-final: Cumbria 131 Kent 112.

ESHAM TROPHY: Quarter-finals: North Walsham 107 Handy Cross 52; Teignbridge 77 Dolphin 65.

HITCHIN: County match: Hertfordshire 185 Buckinghamshire 185-120.

MOUNTAIN ASH: Welsh indoor club championship: Final: Llanelli 138 Fifth 109.

BOXING

BERCK-SUR-MER, France: European cruiserweight championship: Johnny Nelson (Sheffield) bt Patrice Aouissa (Fr, holder) rsc 7th.

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey: International Boxing Federation junior-lightweight championship: Arturo Gatti (US, holder) bt Tracey Patterson (US) pts.

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida: World Boxing Association cruiserweight championship: Nate Miller (US, holder) bt Alexandre Gurov (Ukr) tko 2nd.

HAMBURG: World Boxing Organisation (WBO) welterweight championship (vacant): Michael Loewe (Ger) bt Santiago Samaridiego (Par) pts. WBO lightweight championship: Artur Grigorian (Uzb, holder) bt Raul Balbi (Arg) rsc 11th.

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH: Durban (third day of four): Natal 335 and 112 (M G Bevan 4-35); Australians 370 and 81-2. Australians won by eight wickets.

RED STRIPE CUP (second day of four): Discovery Bay, Jamaica: Barbados 184 and 139-5; Jamaica 180 (H R Bryan 4-42). The Valley, Anguilla: Leeward Islands 168 and 23-2. Windward Islands 189. Port of Spain: Trinidad and Tobago 305 (P V Simmons 78, L Roberts 65, N McGarrell 7-84); Guyana 183-5 (S Chanderpaul 60, N A de Groot 53).

SAARC TOURNAMENT: Dhaka (one day): Bangladesh 220-9 (Sarwar Hussain 76, Akram Khan 54, D K Liyanage 4-42); Sri Lanka A 222-5 (Nawaid Nawaz 88). Sri Lanka A won by five wickets. Dhaka (one day): Pakistan A 232-9 (Basit Ali 67; H Singh 6-43); India A 164-9 (M S K Prasad 56). Pakistan A win by 68 runs.

CYCLING

Time-trials

NORTH ROAD CC HARDRIDERS' (Essendon, Hertfordshire, 25 miles): 1, S Yates (Team Sean) 58min 44sec; 2, G Butler (Norwood Paragon) 59:56; 3, J Ramsbottom (North Wirral Velo) 1:00:13. Team: North Wirral Velo 3:06:32.

LEA VALLEY RC TWO-UP (Quendon, Essex, 25 miles): 1, R van Looy and B McDonald (Octagon VC) 58:22; 2, J Measles and A Cornish (CC Romford) 59:19; 3, E Hendon (Lea Valley RC) and A Yates (Becontree Wheelers) 1:00:26.

CORSHAM RC TWO-UP (Devizes, Wiltshire, 20 miles): 1, S Ambrosini and N Hutchings (MCS RT) 44:09; 2, G Fouracre and D Russell (Mendip CC) 45:22. 3, R Lyne and M Rogers (Team Bristol) 45.43.

TAVISTOCK WHEELERS HILLY (Tavistock, 13 miles): 1, G Lawton (RAF CC) 50:28; 2, M Dutty (Plymouth Corinthian CC) 53:32; 3, M Potter (Weston Wheelers) 54:02.

FULLARTON WHEELERS THREE-UP (Irvine, Strathclyde, 18 miles): 1, S Daisley, A Holmes and R McReadie (Inverclyde Velo) 39:13 (course record). 2, W McFarlane, J Goldie and T McGuade (Fullarton Wheelers) 39:27. 3, A McKinley, S Pirrell and I McKenzie (Fullarton Wheelers) 41:02.

CHESTERFIELD COUREURS HILLY (Bradwell, Derbyshire, 17 miles): 1, G Sherlock (Norwood Paragon) 43:35. 2, R Watkinson (Dinnington RC) 43:42. 3, R Weiker (VS Aztek) 43:49. Team: Dinnington RC 2:17:11.

REDHILL CC SPORTING (Dorking, 15.4 miles): 1, A Mayfarth (Twickenham CC) 39:53; 2, A Dallaglio (Harlow RT) 39:56; 3, J Bradden (Antelope RT) 40:27. Team: Twickenham CC 2:04:57.

CIRCUIT OF DALLOW MOOR (Sawley, North Yorkshire, 15 miles): 1, N Goscinski (VC York) 45:05; 2, M Youngson (Knaresborough CC) 48:09; 3, M Eastwood (VC York) 48:59.

YORKSHIRE CF (Tadcaster, 10 miles): 1, H Walker (GS Metro) 20:32, 2 equal, T Horton (Halifax RC) and D Youens (GS Metro) 22:56. Team: GS Metro 1:07:10.

WYRE FOREST CRC (Ombersley, Worcestershire, 10 miles): 1, N Hutchings (MCS RT) 21:36. 2, W Moore (Lee RC) 21:54; 3, D Williams (Birchfield CC) 22:14.

ANDOVER WHEELERS HILLY (Wildern, Hampshire, 10 miles): 1, S Howes (Team Giant) 26:08, 2, H Lodge (Salisbury RC) 26:09; 3, G Longland (Radford Accountants) 26:11.

Road races

TOUR DE LANGKAWI: Fourth stage (Port Dickson to Bandar Sunway, 203.5km): 1, F McCormack (US) 5hr 51sec; 2, H Trumholler (Ger); 3, A Eli (It) both same time; 4, A Leschi (It) at 7sec; 5, V Kravchenko (Kaz) same time; 6, J Tanner (GB) at 15sec. Leading overall standings: 1, McCormack 7hr 24min 45sec; 2, Kravchenko at 23sec; 3, A McLean (SA) at 35sec.

VALENCIA, Spain: Luis Puig one-day race (185.6km): 1, E Zabel (Ger) 4hr 26min 07sec; 2, E Lloan (It) same time; 3, M Stuzzer (It), 4, G M Fagnini (It); 5, J Koerts (Holl), 6, J Plankaert (Bel) all same time.

PETER DOYLE MEMORIAL (Meonstoke, Hampshire, 58 miles): 1, J Bayfield (Controverse RT) 2hr 35min 03sec; 2, S Fiby (Caesarean CC, Jersey) same time, 3, R Horner (Team 120/80) at 1.17.

EQUESTRIANISM

BOLOGNA: Volvo World Cup qualifier: 1, Virtual Village Grannouch (J Whitaker, GB) clear, 37.72sec; 2, Virtual Village Ashley (M Whitaker, GB) clear, 38.55; 3, Virtual Village It's Otto (G Billington, GB) clear, 39.73. European League standings (after 12 of 15 qualifiers): 1, P Raymakers (Holl) 72pts; 2, M Whitaker 64; 3, L Beerbaum (Ger) 57.

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Cannock 5 Barford Tigers 1, East Grinstead 4 Guildford 3; Havant 1 Canterbury 2; Old Loughtonians 2 Teddington 3; Reading 6 Surbiton 1; Southgate 7 Hounslow 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Teddington	19	13	1	5	62	45	40
Cannock	19	12	2	5	71	40	38
Reading	19	12	2	5	67	47	38
East Grinstead	19	9	6	4	59	44	33
Southgate	19	10	2	7	58	51	32
Canterbury	19	9	4	6	58	49	31
Old Loughton	19	9	2	7	52	41	29
Guildford	19	8	3	8	64	56	27
Hounslow	19	5	5	9	37	55	20
Surbiton	18	3	5	10	34	65	14
Barford Tigers	19	4	2	13	29	65	14
Havard	19	1	2	16	27	58	5

FIRST DIVISION: Bromley 1 Hull 1; Brooklands 1 Bournville 0; City of Portsmouth 2 Bluenairs 2; Crosby 0 Beeston 2, Doncaster 3 Indian Gymkhana 7, Edgbaston 2 Ipsa 5; Fleetwonds 3 Lewes 2, Gloucester City 2 Oxford Hawks 1; Harlestone Magpies 3 Oxford University 1; Wanington 2 Sheffield 2; Stourport 2 St Albans 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beeston	17	16	1	0	71	18	49
Doncaster	17	11	2	4	72	38	35
Bournville	17	10	2	5	43	27	32
Ipsa	17	8	6	3	41	32	30
Bluefriars	17	8	4	5	45	35	28
St Albans	17	8	4	5	42	35	28
Indian Gym	17	8	3	6	47	37	27
Brooklands	17	8	2	7	37	28	26
Harleston M	18	7	5	6	35	25	26
Firebrands	18	7	4	7	41	53	25
Warrington	18	6	6	6	38	46	24
Stourport	16	6	5	5	47	39	23
Oxford Hawks	16	7	2	7	30	32	23
Sheffield	17	6	4	7	42	41	22
Gloucester City	18	7	1	10	29	46	22
Edgbaston	18	6	3	9	37	41	21
Lewes	17	6	2	9	46	52	20
Portsmouth	17	5	4	8	32	44	19
Bromley	17	4	7	6	33	49	19
Oxford Univ	17	5	3	9	25	36	18
Hull	17	2	7	8	32	45	13
Crosby	17	3	3	11	22	51	12
Trojans	17	1	4	12	22	48	7

HA CUP: Fifth round: Beeston 1 Reading 2; Cannock 7 Stourport 1; Chelmsford 2 Canterbury 1, High Wycombe 0 Teddington 6; Lewes 1 Guildford 6, Old Loughtonians 2 Hounslow 1, St Albans 3 Hampstead/Westminster 2, Surbiton 3 Southgate 2 (aet).

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Ashford 3 Wokingham 2; Beckenham 2 Old Kingstonians 0; Bournemouth 2 Old Wimbledons 4; Fareham 3 Maidenhead 0, Hampstead/Westminster 6 Amthonians 1, Ramgarhia 1 Chichester 2, Richmond 3 Gore Court 1; Tunbridge Wells 5 Woking 3, Wimbledon 0 High Wycombe 2, Winchester 8 Spencer 0; Hampshire/Surrey: Andover 5 Oxted 1, Basingstoke 0 Old Cranleighans 1; Southampton 0 Goen 2, Stanstead 8 Presentvale 2; Purley 7 Portsmouth 2; London University 9 Barnes 2, Old Mid-Whigdians 6 Cheam 1, Epsom 3 Camberley 2; Oxshott 4 Dulwich 2; Kent/Sussex: Belvedere 4 Bognor 1, Eastbourne 1 Tulse Hill 4, Horsham 3 Blackheath 2 Marden Russets 7 Ashford 1, Middleton 1 Herne Bay 2, Mid Sussex 4 Worthing 2; Old Bordenians 3 Bexley Invicta 3, Old Hotcombeans 5 Brighton 3, Old Williamsonians 7 Bexleyheath 0, Sevenoaks 2 Lloyds Bank 2 Meddo/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: Farnham Common 2 Newbury 1, Hayes 1 Eastcote 6, Lions 7 Headington 3, Marlow 3 Gerrards Cross 2, Mill Hill 2 City of Oxford 2; Milton Keynes 6 Bracknell 2, OMT 1 Staines 4, PHC Chiswick 6 Amersham 1; Rotrengs Park 7 Sunbury 0; West Hampstead 0 Harrow 1.

DITZ DERBYSHIRE THORPE MIDLAND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloxwich 1 Harborne 12, Coventry and North Warwickshire 1, Hampton-in-Arden 1, Khalsa 2 Blossomfield 2; Loughborough Students 1 Olton and West Warwickshire 0; North Notts 2 Nottingham 4.

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Ben Rhydding 1 Norton 3, Formby 0 Sheffield Bankers 1, Harrogate 2 Timperley 1; Neston 5 Southport 0; Springfields 3 Chester 3, Swalwell 1 Ramgarhia 0.

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Bishop's Stortford 1 Peterborough Town 1, Cambridge City 2 Ipswich 2, Cambridge University 2 Redbridge and Ilford 0; Dereham 3 Colchester 1, Sudbury 2 Chelmsford 6 Premier division B: Clacton 4 Bury St Edmunds 1; Hurtingdon 3 Luton Town 4; Norwich City 5 Bedford Town 2, Romford 2 Ipswich and East Suffolk 0.

SUN LIFE WEST LEAGUE: Premier division: Clevedon 1 Weston-super-Mare 2; Robinsons 8 Bridgel University 6 Swansea 1 Llan and Llan 0; Taunton Vale 2 Plymouth 1, Whitchurch 2 Bath Buccaneers 5.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Clifton 3 Balsam Leicester 0; Doncaster 1 Sutton Coldfield 2, Ipswich 6 Hightown 1, First division: Bracknell 2 Blucherts 1, Canterbury 1 Chelmsford Broadoak 7, Olton 2 Bradford Swithenbank 3; Wimbledon 1 Sunderland Bedans 0. Second division: Ealing 2 Exmouth 1; Loughborough Students 3 Woking 1, Old Loughtonians 4 West Witney 3, St Albans 0 Sherwood 2.

WOMEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Ashford 3 Welwyn Garden City 1; Bury St Edmunds 2 Bexleyheath 0; Cambridge City 2 Harleston Magpies 2; Sevenoaks 1 Ipswich 2. Midlands: Crimson Ramblers 2 Bedford 0; Kettering 4 West Bromwich 4, North Staffs 1 Aldridge 3, Pedwick 2 Hampton 2, North: Blackburn 1 Chester 3; Poynton 5 Carlisle 0, Sheffield 0 Liverpool 2, Wilson 3 York 1. South: City of Portsmouth 1 Winchmore Hill 2; Hampstead 1 Tulse Hill 2; Horsham 2 Dulwich 1; Reading 2 Winchester 2, Southampton 1 Worthing 3 West: Cheltenham 3 Wimborne 1, Leominster 2 Exeter 1; St Austell 1 Cotwall 4, Yate 2 Bournemouth 1.

WOMEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Zone two: Cornwall 2 Somerset 0, Gloucestershire 2 Dorset 0; Herefordshire 0 Devon 0.

AMIENS, France: European women's indoor club championship: A division: Pool A: Amiens 1 Club de Campo Madrid 4; Amiens 3 Russelsheim (Ger) 8, Club de Campo 6 Saulsia (Lith) 2; Russelsheim 10 Club de Campo 2; Amiens 4 Saulsia 5. Pool B: Slough 5 Lokomotiva Riece (Slovakia) 5, Berlin (Ger) 21 Donchanka (Russ) 5; Lokomotiva Riece 6 Donchanka 3; Berlin 7 Slough 3. Fifth-eighth place play-offs: Amiens 9 Lokomotiva 2, Saulsia 5 Donchanka 3. Semi-finals: Russelsheim 8 Slough 4; Berlin 9 Club de Campo 6. Third-place play-off: Slough 4 Club de Campo 5. Final: Russelsheim 7 Berlin 6.

PRESCOT, Italy: European women's indoor club championship: B division: Pool A: Edinburgh Ladies 3 Prague 3, Pontypridd 1 Groningen 3 Prague 2, Edinburgh Ladies 6 Groningen 3, Prague 3 Pontypridd 1; Groningen 3 Prague 2, Edinburgh Ladies 10 Pontypridd 3. Pool B: Escorsuit (Austria) 5 Hayan (Swe) 3; Grodno (Bela) 5 Brescia 5; Escorsuit 1 Brescia 7; Grodno 10 Hayan 1; Brescia 10 Hayan 1; Escorsuit 1 Grodno 5. Fifth-eighth place play-offs: Prague 8 Hayan 1, Pontypridd 3 Escorsuit 0. Third-place play-off: Brescia 6 Grodno 3. Fifth-place play-off: Prague 10 Pontypridd 9. Seventh-place play-off: Escorsuit 6 Hyan 0. Final: Edinburgh Ladies 6 Groningen 3.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Friday: Hartford 7 NY Rangers 2, Buffalo 5 NY Islanders 2; Dallas 4 Calgary 2; Colorado 4 Edmonton 3 (OT). Saturday: Anaheim 4 Phoenix 2, Philadelphia 4 Florida 3 (OT), Chicago 5 Pittsburgh 2; St Louis 2 Detroit 2 (OT), Tampa Bay 3 New Jersey 1, Hartford 2 Washington 0; Toronto 5 Montreal 1, Los Angeles 4 Vancouver 0.

SUPERLEAGUE: Basingstoke 2 Sheffield 4, Bracknell 5 Manchester 3; Cardiff 3 Newcastle 4; Nottingham 3 Ayr 5.

SQUASH

ANTWERP: Esso Open: Quarter-finals: A Hands (Eng) bt Zarak Jahan (Pak) 15-9, 15-11, 15-12; J Nicolle (Eng) bt A Gough (Wales) 17-14, 15-12, 15-3; P Johnson (Eng) bt S Castelayn (Bel) 17-14, 15-12, 15-10; D Meddings (Eng) bt B Haddrell (Aus) 15-14, 15-10, 15-13.

TENNIS

ANTWERP: Men's tournament: Quarter-finals: M Gölitzer (Ger) bt M Damm (Cz) 3-1 ret; T Henman (GB) bt F Clavet (Sp) 7-6, 6-4, M Rosset (Switz) bt F Dewulf (Bel) 4-6, 6-1, 6-4. Semi-finals: Henman bt Gölitzer 6-4, 6-4; Rosset bt P Korda (Cz) 7-6, 6-3. Final: Rosset bt Henman 6-2, 7-5, 6-4.

WOMEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Zone two: Cornwall 2 Somerset 0, Gloucestershire 2 Dorset 0; Herefordshire 0 Devon 0.

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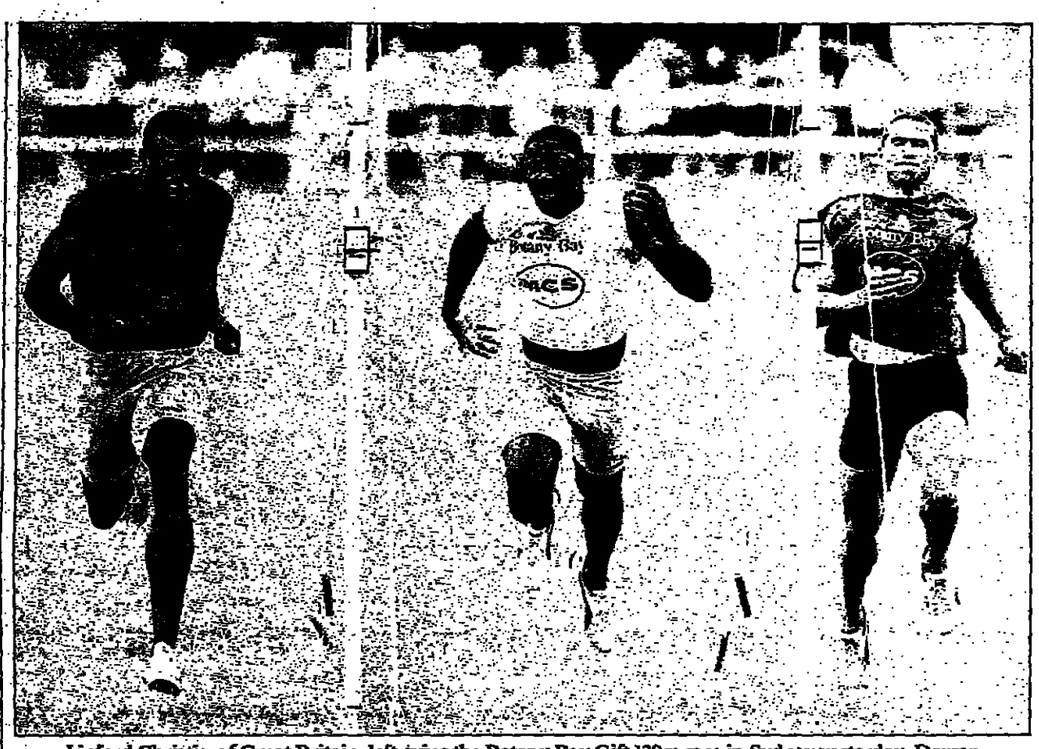
WOMEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Women's tournament: Semi-finals: K Po (US) bt S Cecic (US) 6-3, 6-3; F Lubani (It) bt A Coetzer (SA) 6-0, 6-4; L Raymond (US) bt P Shriva (US) 7-5, 7-6; L Davenport (US) bt J Capriati (US) 6-3, 6-4. Semi-finals: Davenport bt Po 1-6, 6-2, 6-3; Raymond bt Lubani 6-1, 6-0.

HANOVER: Women's tournament: Semi-finals: I Majoli (Cro) bt B Paulus (Austria) 7-5, 6-4, J Novotna (Cz) bt M Maleeva (Bul) 6-0, 7-5. Final: Majoli bt Novotna 4-6, 7-6, 6-4.

REDBRIDGE: Women's challenger tournament: Finals: M Sanchez-Lorenzo (Sp) bt E Talukova (Uk) 6-1, 6-1.

DAVIS CUP: Asia/Oceania zone: Group two: Taiwan 5 Singapore 0. Pakistan 2 Iran 3.





Linford Christie, of Great Britain, left, wins the Botany Bay Gift 120m race in Sydney yesterday. Darren Campbell, also of Britain, centre, finished third. Christie recorded a time of 12.03sec after a photo finish

RESULTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PUTTER AT RYE

THIRD ROUND

E R Dexter (Cambridge) bt A J Hempel (Oxford) 3 and 2; A G Edmond (Cambridge) bt D J Warden (Cambridge) 19th hole; J S Young (Cambridge) bt T J Hanson (Cambridge) 3 and 2; M F Balgent (Cambridge) bt J E Behrens (Oxford) 20th hole, O Malik (Cambridge) bt A de C Aldrich-Blake (Cambridge) 4 and 3; C J Weight (Cambridge) bt P F Gardiner-Hill (Oxford) 3 and 4; A L Woolnough (Oxford) bt G M Langford (Oxford) 6 and 5; J B L Webster (Cambridge) bt D I Wilson (Cambridge) 3 and 2; D E F Simons (Cambridge) bt P B K Gracey (Oxford) 4 and 3; J A S Nash (Oxford) bt M G Jerrom (Oxford) 3 and 2; R C S Palmer (Cambridge) bt M E Baird (Cambridge) 4 and 3; G L Leach (Oxford) wo; C R Romance (Oxford) bt R J H Randall (Cambridge) 2 up; P J Hill (Oxford) bt M P J Bonney (Cambridge) 2 and 1; R G Streather (Oxford) wo; S R Seman (Oxford) wo; W J Dugdale (Oxford) bt J I Hampel (Oxford) 8 and 5; K H A Irwin (Cambridge) bt R Eliot (Oxford) 5 and 4; J J N Caplan (Cambridge) bt R W Devlin (Oxford) 19th hole; R A Sanders (Oxford) bt D L Randall (Oxford) 6 and 5; M J Dawson (Cambridge) bt T E Tew (Oxford) 1 hole; J G Clark (Oxford) bt M M Williamson (Cambridge) 2 and 1, J M I Warman (Cambridge) wo; C L A Edgington (Oxford) bt A N Lyle (Oxford) 19th hole; A G Guest-Gornall (Oxford) wo; W H D Barclay (Cambridge) bt N J Grant (Cambridge) 2 and 1; S M Ritchie (Oxford) bt J H Palmer (Cambridge) 2 and 1; S D Ellis (Cambridge) bt A H Catchpole (Oxford) 7 and 6; E Gilchrist (Cambridge) bt M Yates (Oxford) 3 and 2; M S P Benka (Oxford) bt P M Guest (Cambridge) 4 and 3, P Dawson (Cambridge) bt J E B Stobbs (Cambridge) 3 and 2; R P Lawson (Oxford) bt P M Green (Cambridge) 1 hole.

FOURTH ROUND

Dexter bt Edmond 2 and 1, Young bt Balgent 3 and 2; Malik bt Weight 1 hole; Woolnough bt Webster 3 and 2; Nash bt Simons 1 hole, Leach bt Palmer 1 hole; Rotheroe bt Hill 3 and 2; Streather wo; Dugdale bt Irwin 5 and 4; Sanders bt Caplan 5 and 4, Dawson bt Clark 1 hole, Warman bt Edgington 4 and 3; Barclay bt Guest-Gornall 3 and 2; Ellis bt Ritchie 3 and 2, Benka bt Gilchrist 6 and 5; Lawson bt Dawson 2 and 1.

FIFTH ROUND

Dexter bt Young 1 hole, Woolnough bt Malik 2 and 1; Nash bt Leach 2 and 1; Rotheroe bt Streather 3 and 2; Sanders bt Dugdale 1 hole, Warman bt Dawson 6 and 5, Ellis bt Barclay 6 and 5; Benka bt Lawson 4 and 3.

QUARTER-FINALS

Woolnough bt Dexter 2 and 1; Rotheroe bt Nash 2 up; Warman bt Sanders 3 and 2, Ellis bt Benka 3 and 2.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Challenge Cup

Fifth round

Saturday

London	12	Bradford	34

London: Tries: Krause, Roskell. Goals: Barwick 2. Bradford: Tries: Nickle 2, Cook, Loughlin, Paul, Tomlinson. Goals: McNamara 5. Att: 8,102.

Yesterday

Carlisle	20	Featherstone	32

Carlisle: Tries: G Charlton, Lynch, Manners, Richardson. Goals: Richardson 2. Featherstone: Tries: Gleadhill 2, Summers 2, Baker, Hughes. Goals: Maskill 4. Att: 1,062.

Halifax	8	Keighley	21

Halifax: Try: Schuster. Goals: Schuster 2. Keighley: Tries: Filipo, Foster, Irving. Goals: Irving 4. Dropped goal: Robinson. Att: 7,421.

Leeds	48	Dewsbury	22

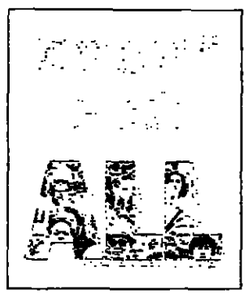
Leeds: Tries: McDermott 3, Hughes 2, Mercer 2, Collins. Goals: Holroyd 5, Cummins 3. Dewsbury: Tries: Bates, Williams, Wood. Goals: Eaton 5. Att: 5,775.

هكذا من الاصل

It takes peculiar stamina to get to the top in business — and to run a marathon. **John Goodbody** reports

Business secrets of staying the course

Two long-distance executives talk about what makes them run — and how their jobs prepare them for the rigours of marathon training

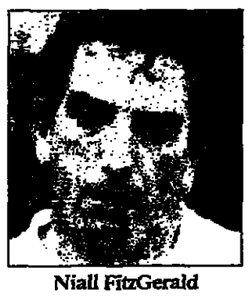


Self-discipline and planning are necessary in many areas of life. These skills can be equally applied to work, hobbies and family duties. Athletes who complete the Flora London Marathon are often also prominent in their jobs.

The requirements are similar: concentrated effort, leaving nothing to chance and careful preparation. If the maxim is true that you should give a busy man a job to do, so high-flying executives are often the best people to take on the task of finishing a marathon.

They may not be able to devote as many hours to training as some athletes can, but they know how to arrange their lives to compress the maximum amount of exercise into the shortest possible time. They anticipate problems, smile on adversity and are never deflected from their task. They fulfil their potential.

Two outstanding examples are Niall FitzGerald, the chairman of Unilever plc, one of the world's largest consumer goods enterprises, and David Svendsen, the managing director of Microsoft, the leading software company. Here are two businessmen, both in highly competitive sectors, who know how to succeed.



Niall FitzGerald

'Turning 50, you have to prove things to yourself'

The pair are curiously alike. Both are 6ft tall and weigh 12½ stone. Both have run one previous marathon and their best times are separated by only four minutes. They are only three years apart in age. They were both born abroad, and have lived extensively outside the United Kingdom, but are now based here. They are raising money for similar organisations: FitzGerald for the Save the Children Fund and Svendsen for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Svendsen does not see the similar choice of charity as odd. "I believe it makes sense. We are both in businesses which are focused on the next generations."

FitzGerald, 51, was born in Ireland and played a lot of rugby, football and cricket as a youngster but took up running only in the early 1980s when he was working for Unilever in South Africa.

"It was very popular there," he says. "The Comrades Marathon actually went past my front door." He began running up to five times week. At the age of 36, he ran a marathon in 3 hours 31 minutes.

In March 1985, he returned to London to become group treasurer of Unilever but the pressures of work meant that he became a "weekend runner". Why did he start running more regularly? "Well, turning 50 had something to do with it. You have to prove yourself to do various things."

He accepts that he is "fairly pressurised" through his work and also has to travel a great deal. "If you are not careful, you can get out of condition pretty quickly."

Often he now gets up at 6am to train and when he is abroad will always stay in hotels where there is a gym. He takes his running shoes wherever he goes and will often train on the streets. "It is a fun way to look round the cities."

The London Marathon has given him an extra incentive because since last year it has been sponsored by Flora, one of Unilever's brands. However, he is certainly not expecting to duplicate his previous marathon performance. "I would be happy to get round this time."

He goes through his work schedule weeks in advance to decide when he can get in his training sessions and, when he is in London, is often training four to five times a week. There will be a 40-55 minute run, followed by 25 minutes of strengthening work in a gymnasium. On other days, he will do shorter runs but, during the weekend, he will complete up to 12 miles. Before the marathon, he is planning to get in about 15 miles.

"You should not run unless you enjoy it, or at least convince yourself you are enjoying it. Certainly I like the whole process. I like the sense of freedom. It clears my mind. It helps me to find solutions to things at work, even if I have forgotten what those solutions are when I have finished.

"I saw the event on television last year. It is very emotional. There will be some nervousness about what happens on the day but I will finish, if I have to crawl in."

Svendsen, 48, has always used running as a "non-serious sporting pastime", initially during a rowing career in which he represented Queensland, in Australia, where he was born and raised.

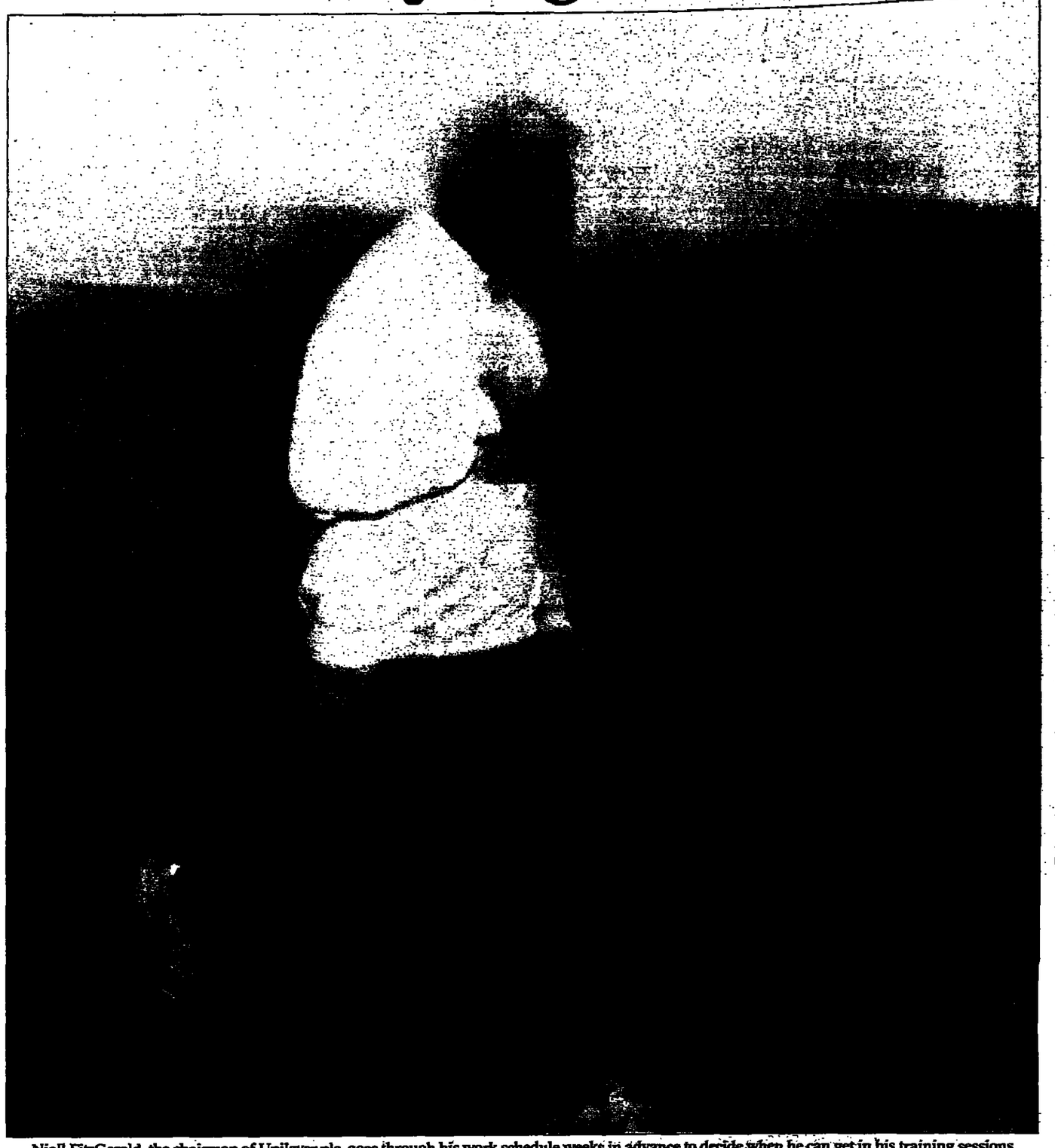
He suffered from heart palpitations as an oarsman. "I used to stop breathing throughout a race. It was only when I took up distance running that I understood how to breathe properly. I have thought of taking up rowing again but I thought it would be a retrograde step."

It was when he was working in Australia in the 1980s that he got "seriously bitten by the running bug". He participated in the 14km Sydney to Bondi Beach race, in which up to 30,000 people take part, and this acted as an inspiration.

He came back to Britain in 1988 but had to concentrate on work at Microsoft. "It was a small, troubled business." However, he recently returned to serious running and recommends cross-training — practising different activities. "You can become very inflexible just running. But what is super-important for completing a marathon is the weekly long run. I am doing three hours on four successive Sundays from the middle of February." This will be his second marathon. His first was in Athens last autumn, the centenary of first modern Olympic Games. He did three hours 27 minutes. "We finished the race in the stadium that was used for the 1896 Games. It uplifted our spirits."

His spirits were so uplifted that, after the London Marathon, he has his eyes on Chicago in the autumn.

SIMON WALKER



Niall FitzGerald, the chairman of Unilever plc, goes through his work schedule weeks in advance to decide when he can get in his training sessions

Care pays in the long run

JULIAN HERBERT

The impact on the body of long-distance running should not be underestimated, Dr Dan Tunstall Pedoe, the medical director of the Flora London Marathon, says.

"The keynote is to be careful and sensible in both training and on the day of the race.

"At the moment there is a flu bug going round. If you catch the bug, a feverish cold or tummy problem, you should not run until you have fully recovered. People always believe they are as fit as they were before they became ill. They are not. So build up the mileage again gradually. Training too hard, too soon, may cause further damage or illness.

"Make certain you get enough days of rest and alternate hard days with gentle or non-active days. Do as much training as you can on soft surfaces, such as parkland or canal towpaths, rather than tarmac. If you have to do your long runs on roads, be careful that you vary on which side of the camber you run. Otherwise you will risk picking up an injury by putting a greater strain on one side of the body.

"Muscular aches and pains occur most frequently after a rise in mileage, so increase the training gradually. It is important to stretch your legs. However, you can do this after training rather than before. If you have plenty of time, then by all means stretch before your session, but if you have only 20 minutes for an outing, there is not much point in spending ten minutes warming up. Instead, start running slowly and gradually loosen yourself into the session.



Indoor training: it is important to build up your fitness

'During the race, take water regularly, even in the first half'

"If you do get so badly injured that you cannot run, then you should see a doctor. However, most GPs are not very good at soft-tissue injuries, so you should find out who is the best qualified person available: a doctor with a particular interest in soft tissues or a physiotherapist.

"If you have not completed a 15-mile outing comfortably with a month to go before the marathon, you will not be able to run 26 miles either in safety or with enjoyment. You should withdraw. Don't forget the organisers make a place automatically available for next year for those who pull out because they are either sick, lame or lazy.

"This has become a particular problem in recent years because so many of the entrants are raising money for a charity and don't want to lose face. I understand there is a moral dilemma here but runners should not risk their own health.

"During the race, take water regularly, even in the first half when you may not feel like it. Last year, it was unusually hot and the faster runners began pouring bottles of water over themselves. Please do not do this. By all means use your own allocation to drink but don't take extra containers just for the temporary relief of splashing it over yourself. Others behind you have a great need of the water for drinking.

"Do not drink alcohol on the night before long runs and particularly before the marathon itself. Alcohol is dehydrating. A pint of beer produces more than a pint of urine and you should start a long run well hydrated.

"Finally, if you have any serious medical condition, we are happy for you to take part, but only with your doctor's agreement. Please let me know the details and the treatment you are having. Send them to me, quoting your running number when you know it. Address the envelope to me, mark it confidential and send it to the Flora London Marathon office, PO Box 1234, London SE1 8RZ."

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

A 1 NT opening defines the opener's hand to within a narrow range of strength and distribution. So after opening 1 NT you should leave further action to your partner. Andrew Robson violated that sacred principle to great effect on this hand from the 1997 Macallan International Pairs.

Dealer South — East-West game — IMPs

	♠A 9 2 ♥K 9 6 5 ♦9 6 3 ♣J 10 6	
♠J 7 5 4 ♥J 8 7 ♦Q 5 4 ♣K 5 3		♠K Q 8 3 ♥3 2 ♦A J 10 8 7 ♣7 2
	♠10 6 ♥A Q 10 4 ♦K 2 ♣A Q 9 8 4	

S	W	N	E
1 NT	Pass	Pass	2 D
2 H	Double	Pass	2 S
3 C	Pass	4 H	All Pass

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: four of spades

1 NT showed 14-16 points. Robson couldn't open One Club as he would be in difficulties over a One Spade response — a rebid of 1 NT would show only 11-13 points. East's Two Diamonds showed diamonds and a major, and now someone who held old-fashioned views about the duties of the No-trump opener would remain silent on the South hand. However, Robson decided to show his own major. West's double was to defend Two Hearts only if that were East's suit. Over East's Two Spades Robson showed the last feature of his hand.

When the hand appeared on VuGraph, and the principles of, let us say, "traditional" No-trump opening theory were discussed, David Burn explained Robson's hyper-modern treatment: "First you open 1 NT to show your point count, then you bid your canapé suit, and finally you show your length."

Robson had given an accurate picture. Forrester (North) could tell that South must be 2-4-2-5, with strength concentrated in his long suits, so he judged well to jump to Four Hearts. That made easily. When I bid as Robson did, West sits over me with K J x x x in both my suits.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Cardiff masters

Three players made international master results at the Cardiff masters tournament, the first international master tournament ever held in South Wales. The players were James Cobb (who won the tournament with 6½ points out of nine), Daniel Gormally and Luke McShane. McShane, 13, needs just one more such result to be awarded the full master title.

Polgar's setback

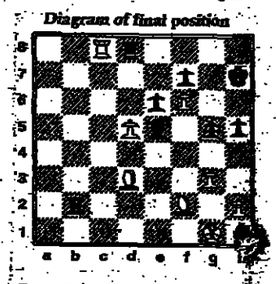
Judit Polgar started off well in the Linares super-tournament and for the early part of the event she held the lead. Nevertheless, she met her nemesis in playing Black against Kasparov and never recovered from an inferior opening. After this game, Kasparov sped on to win the tournament. Polgar finished in a highly respectable fifth.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Judit Polgar
Linares, February 1997

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	e6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nc6
5	Nc3	Qc7
6	Be2	a6
7	0-0	Nf6
8	Be3	Bb4
9	Na4	Bd6
10	g3	Be7
11	c4	d6
12	f3	Bd7
13	Rc1	0-0
14	Nxc6	bxc6
15	Nb6	Rad8
16	b4	Qb8
17	b5	Be8
18	a4	Nd7
19	Nxd7	Rxd7
20	Qb3	Qc7
21	Rfd1	Rd8
22	Bd4	Ra8
23	Qc3	axb5
24	cxb5	Qxc3
25	Rxc3	Rxa4
26	Re7	Bg5
27	Bf2	b6
28	Rb7	Ra2
29	Bf1	Rb2
30	f4	Bf6
31	Rxb6	Bc3
32	Rb7	g5
33	f5	Bb4
34	f6	h5
35	Rc1	Kh7
36	Rb8	d5
37	exd5	Bd6
38	Rd8	Be5
39	Rxc8	Bxb5
40	Bxb5	Rxc8
41	Bd3+	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



London v Beijing

From tomorrow until March 7 grandmasters Chris Ward, Neil McDonald and Keith Arkell, representing London, will take on a team of Chinese grandmasters from Beijing. Wang Zili, Ye Jiangchuan and Peng Xiaomin. The venue is the London College of Traditional Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, Finchley, London, from 11am to 6pm. Spectators to this unusual event are welcome. For further details, contact the organisers on 0181-202 0982.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Philip Howard

ORF
a. A female troll
b. A sheep disease
c. A goldfish

RHAGES
a. Persian pots
b. Hydrophobia
c. Wide pleats

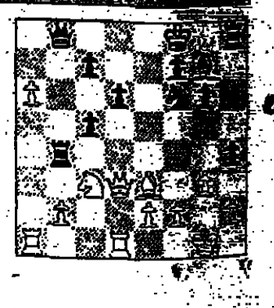
PIZE-BALL
a. A New York dumpling
b. An excuse-me dance
c. Manual rounders

ORTHON
a. An Indian tribe
b. A syllabub
c. A harmonica book

Answers on page 46

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Hodgson — Sadler, Watson, Farley and Williams, London 1989. How did White force the capture of a pawn which soon led to a swift win?



Solution on page 46

Guscott's touch of true class puts paid to Bristol

THE TIMES

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Law Report February 24 1997 Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Home Secretary entitled to find France safe for refugees

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department and Another, Ex parte Canbolat

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice and Mr Justice Moses

[Judgment February 14]

Responsibility for deciding whether a third country was safe for the purposes of section 2 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 was entrusted to the Home Secretary. The role of the court was that of review, not appeal, and accordingly subject to the limitations applicable to judicial review.

Where, therefore, the Home Secretary had obtained information demonstrating the existence of French asylum law and procedures giving effect to France's international obligations and had received assurances from the French authorities as to the availability to asylum seekers of those measures, he was entitled to form the opinion that, contrary to the views of special adjudicators, a particular case of serious breach of the procedures did not establish a real risk that officials systematically acted in breach of French law to frustrate asylum applications.

Accordingly, he was entitled to regard that case as isolated and France as a country to which he might authorise an asylum seeker's removal under the 1996 Act.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated, dismissing Gulay Canbolat's application for judicial review of the decisions of:

1 The Home Secretary issuing a certificate under section 2 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 which authorised her removal from the United Kingdom to France as a third safe country for investigation of her claim for asylum under the Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) (Cmd 9171) and (1967) (Cmnd 3906) and

2 The immigration officer refusing her leave to enter and removing her from the United Kingdom to France.

The applicant, a citizen of Turkey of Kurdish origin, arrived from Paris at Waterloo International Station on August 31, 1996 claiming political asylum. On September 1, the Home Secretary issued a certificate under section 2 of the 1996 Act, which came into force on that day, authorising her removal to France.

Section 2(1)(a) of the 1996 Act enabled the Home Secretary to direct the removal of an asylum applicant if he had certified that, in his opinion, the conditions in section 2(2) were fulfilled.

Section 2 provides: "(2) The conditions are — (a) that the person is not a national or a citizen of the country ... to which he is to be sent; (b) that his life and liberty would not be threatened in that country ... [for a Convention reason] ...; (c) that the government of that country ... would not send him to another country ... otherwise than in accordance with the Convention. ..".

Mr Manjit Gill and Mr Asoka Dias for the applicant; Mr David Pannick, QC and Mr Mark Shaw for the Home Secretary.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, referred to article 33 of the 1951 Geneva Convention, and to the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993 which had provided that nothing in the immigration rules should lay down any practice contrary to it but which enabled the secretary of state to direct an asylum applicant's removal to a third safe country, subject to appeal to a special adjudicator before any such removal took place.

That procedure was thought by government to be unsatisfactory since the inevitable delay while the appeal was decided might prejudice the willingness of the third country to receive the applicant.

Sections 2 and 3 of the 1996 Act had been enacted to overcome that perceived disadvantage. Their effect was clear. Where the secretary of state certified under section 2(1)(a) that in his opinion the conditions in subsection (2) were fulfilled, the applicant might be removed to a third safe country for his application to be investigated there on its merits.

The applicant was entitled to appeal on the ground that the conditions were not, or had ceased to be fulfilled but if the third country were either a member state of the European Union or a country designated by the secretary of state under the Act any appeal had to be pursued after the applicant had left the United Kingdom.

France was of course a member state of the EU; the applicant did not dispute that the conditions in section 2(2)(a) and (b) were fulfilled but challenged the lawfulness of the secretary of state's certificate on the ground that the condition in section 2(2)(c) was not met.

Turning to the main ground of challenge, that the decision was irrational, his Lordship examined the task of the secretary of state to whom, as was clear under section 2 of the 1996 Act, the responsibility of deciding whether a third country was safe had been entrusted.

It was he who had to form an opinion, and if so advised, certify, and who had to be satisfied as to the criteria for such removal under *Statement of Changes to Immigration Rules* (HC 395, paragraph 345). There could be no doubt but that he, and no one else was the decision-maker.

The role of the court was one of review not appeal, and as such it was subject to the ordinary limitations of judicial review. But as the consequences of an aberrant decision were potentially grave so the scrutiny by the court had to be rigorous: see *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Bugdaycay* ([1987] AC 514).

It was important that when asylum applicants sought leave to move for judicial review to challenge section 2(1) certificates that judges should bear well in mind the statutory scheme which Parliament had enacted.

That provided for an appeal on the merits to a special adjudicator, whose role was not limited to one of review. It also deprived applicants challenging a certificate in relation to an EU member state of any right of appeal while they remained in the country.

The special treatment accorded to such member states plainly reflected a parliamentary belief that the secretary of state was likely to regard such countries as safe in Convention terms.

It was obvious that if leave to move for judicial review were to be at all readily granted, with the usual consequence that removal would be stayed until the application were determined, the statutory scheme would be circumvented and the statutory object of returning asylum applicants to third countries before delay gave those countries a reason for refusing them would be frustrated.

On the other hand it was important that a remedy by way of judicial review should be available in appropriate cases.

If an asylum seeker were returned to a third country which the secretary of state believed mistakenly to be safe and was returned by that country to the country of origin where he was subject to persecution, the asylum seeker might suffer the very fate against which the Convention was intended to protect him and in such circumstances the statutory right of appeal might be of no practical value whatever.

To deny an effective legal remedy if there were reasonable grounds for apprehending such an outcome would fail to honour the spirit if not the letter of the Convention, would in all probability constitute a breach of article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights (1953) (Cmd 8969) and would be inconsistent with the rule of law.

All the judge could do was to scrutinise with the utmost care the grounds and material relied on by the secretary of state and the applicant in order to assess, necessarily provisionally at the leave stage, the strength of the challenge and the degree of danger to which the applicant might be subject if he were left to pursue his statutory right of appeal.

The secretary of state's opinion was based on:

1 France's commitment to international conventions and agreements applying to asylum seekers;

2 An assessment of French laws and procedures;

3 Information from from the director of Direction des Libertés Publiques et des affaires Juridiques (DLPAJ) and from the British liaison officer in the Direction Centrale du Controle de l'Immigration et de la Lutte contre l'Emploi des Clandestins (DICCILEC) in relation to the practical implementation of French laws and procedures;

4 A lack of evidence to contradict his view.

In a number of international agreements France had re-stated its determination to guarantee adequate protection to refugees in accordance with the Geneva Convention.

From the recent resolutions and agreements to which his Lordship referred it was clear that France demonstrated at least an intention to afford the protection it was obliged to provide under the Convention.

His Lordship referred to the relevant provisions of French domestic law which showed that an applicant had a right, notwithstanding a refusal of an application in certain circumstances by the prefecture, to claim asylum from l'Office Francais de Protection des Refugies at Apatrides, an autonomous body responsible for the determination of asylum claims.

The applicant's challenge of irrationality had relied on criticism of the way French domestic law was applied in practice by French officials within the prefecture.

The two main sources for such criticism were information collected by independent agencies acting for asylum seekers, in particular, the Refugee Legal Centre in London and Amnesty International in France and Germany; and decisions of special adjudicators determining in-country appeal under the 1993 Act.

The nub of the complaints was that there had been a persistent history of officials ignoring asylum requests and seeking to remove complainants on the basis of a failure to claim asylum when the applicant had previously been in France.

The relevant material merited careful scrutiny by the secretary of state and their Lordships had carefully considered all the substantial and lengthy material before them.

It was not for the court to reach any conclusion as to the accuracy of the allegations which, it was to be noted, had been considered by a number of special adjudicators and did not themselves form the basis of any determination that France was not a safe country.

Turning to the applicant's reliance on decisions of special adjudicators under the 1993 Act in which they had concluded that they were not satisfied that France was a safe third country his Lordship said that it was important to place those decisions in their appropriate legal context.

It was for special adjudicators, exercising a primary judgment, to determine afresh whether they were satisfied that France was a third safe country; moreover the onus was on the secretary of state to satisfy the adjudicator that France was not an unsafe country.

The court's jurisdiction was therefore to be distinguished. It was not for the court to form any primary judgment as to the safety of France, nor for the secretary of state to establish that France was not unsafe. It was for the applicant to satisfy the court that his opinion was irrational.

Since April 1996 adjudicators had allowed appeals or referred cases back to the secretary of state in every case where the safety of France was in issue save two.

The reason related to the case of Ali Iqbal. Once the facts of that case were laid before the adjudicators, the secretary of state had been unable to satisfy them as to France's safety.

It was clear that the doubts expressed by all the adjudicators were based on the evidence in the Iqbal case rather than on the particular facts of the cases before them.

In reliance on those cases the applicant had contended that the secretary of state could not rationally be of the opinion that France was safe when he had failed to satisfy adjudicators that that country would comply with its own legal procedures for considering asylum.

The two principal sources for the Home Secretary's assessment of French law and procedures were: *Summary Description of Asylum Procedures in States in Europe, North America and Australia* published by the Secretariat of the Inter-Governmental Consultations on Asylum, Refugee and Migration Policies in Europe, North America and Australia in June 1994 and a presentation on French regulations on asylum submitted by the French delegation to the EU group of the Centre d'Information de Reflexion d'Echange en Matière d'Asile.

He had also based his opinion on the appraisal of France by the Third Country Unit of the Asylum Directorate of the Home Office. The unit was also responsible for considering specific complaints in relation to departures from French law.

France had dealt with more than 20,000 asylum applications in each of the last 10 years, which suggested to the secretary of state that procedures were being properly applied. The proportion of successful applications was higher in France than in other member states.

In monitoring complaints the unit sought to obtain information and assurances from France. His Lordship referred to correspondence from the British liaison officer with DICCILEC and the director of DLPAJ, the latter responding to concerns about the Iqbal case and asserting the availability of French procedures to asylum seekers.

In his letter, the director had enclosed instructions to officials within prefectures as to the exercise of the right to claim asylum in France, and had included a note referring to the rigorous recruitment, training and disciplinary procedures to which such officials were subject.

The evidence did not establish that the Home Secretary's opinion was irrational. He was entitled to place reliance on the international obligations France had undertaken and to consider that cogent evidence would be required to establish that it was neglecting them. There was no undue reluctance in his approach to question whether as a matter of practice officials in France were failing properly to consider asylum claims.

On the basis of the material before him he was entitled to disagree with the conclusions of the adjudicators: in forming his opinion as to the propriety of French procedure and practice he was obliged to take them into account. It was clear he did so but he was not bound by them.

He was entitled on the material before him on September 1, 1996 to conclude that Iqbal was an isolated case which did not establish that there was a real risk that officials within prefectures systematically or regularly acted in breach of French law by frustrating applications.

His view was based on the consideration that he would have expected to see more than one case where concerns as to behaviour of French officials were substantiated. Yet that was the only case established to the satisfaction of the adjudicators. His view was later reinforced by the instructions to officials and knowledge of the sanctions available should they fail to follow those instructions.

He was entitled to form the view that there was no real risk that officials would act in breach of French law by frustrating the present applicant's claim. His opinion that France was a country which would properly consider her claim was not irrational and accordingly her challenge on that ground failed.

Having considered and rejected further grounds sought to be raised the court dismissed the application.

Solicitors: Bluett & Co, Edmonton; Treasury Solicitor.

Practice code no excuse for CPS ignoring court order

Regina v Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court, Ex parte O'Donoghue

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice and Mr Justice Moses

[Judgment February 12]

Adherence to working party recommendations and codes of practice devised for the administrative preparation of cases before trial could in no way justify a deliberate decision by the Crown Prosecution Service to defy a clear order of the court.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated dismissing an application for judicial review by Mr Michael O'Donoghue against the Highbury Corner Stipendiary Magistrate who had granted the CPS an adjournment of the hearing of committal proceedings because they had not warned the principal witness of the date of the hearing.

The applicant had been charged with rape and committal under section 6(1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 had been fixed for January 29. The CPS considered that they could not have the paper work prepared by that date and sought an adjournment. The magistrate directed that that date should stand and that the complainant should attend.

The CPS decided not to warn the complainant of the hearing date so that on January 29 she did not attend and, on the CPS's application, the magistrate concluded that the interests of justice required her to direct an adjournment.

Mr Philip Sutton for the applicant; Mr Stephen John, who did not appear below, for the CPS.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that in adjourning the matter the magistrate had requested a written explanation from the person who had taken the decision not to warn the alleged victim to attend.

That explanation contained no hint of apology, nor any trace of recognition that the CPS might in any way have acted incorrectly in choosing to defy an express order of the court.

His Lordship referred to the explanation given to the Divisional Court by Miss Valerie Eliot-Smith, the acting prosecution team leader for Islington and Holloway, who was responsible for the decision: namely that the paper work for the case and the full review required by the code for Crown prosecutors could not be carried out in time.

His Lordship said that one might have hoped that a deliberate decision to defy a clear court order might have been thought by a responsible Crown prosecutor who was a barrister to call for some acknowledgement of error and even an expression of regret.

If so, one would be disappointed. She had explained the policy considerations she had regarded as more important than compliance with the court order and described a *Working Group Report on Pre-Trial Issues* (November 1990), relying particularly on two recommendations in it as to the period within which the CPS should conduct various stages of preparation for a prosecution, those periods being longer than the time allowed in the present case.

One detected a complete failure to recognise that the working group recommendations and Miss Eliot-Smith's view of what practice within the CPS required could not provide a shred of justification or excuse for a deliberate failure to comply with a court order.

It should not be necessary to say that there were three ways of responding to a court order: to seek to set it aside; to appeal against it, if time allowed; and to obey it.

It was not an option simply to decide that it was an order that the court should not have made and therefore to disregard it.

Mr John had conveyed the CPS's apologies for what might now be recognised as an unacceptable mode of proceeding. That recognition had come rather late in the day.

His Lordship made his remarks in the hope that it might never be necessary to say anything of the kind again.

Mr Justice Moses agreed.

Solicitors: Traymans, Stoke Newington; Crown Prosecution Service, Stratford East.

Treatment of spent offences of licence applicants

Adamson v Waveney District Council

Before Mr Justice Sedley

[Judgment January 24]

In considering whether, exceptionally, to admit convictions spent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 when deciding whether to grant a Hackney carriage licence, justices, or at first instance the local authority subcommittee, should first consider to what issue the material might have relevance, then they should decide whether the convictions were sufficiently relevant and only then consider whether to grant the licence, taking account of the interests of both the applicant and the public.

Mr Justice Sedley so held in the Queen's Bench Division when refusing the appeal of Bernard Charles Adamson from the decision of Lowestoft Justices to uphold the refusal of Waveney District Council to grant a hackney carriage licence to him.

Mr Timothy Straker, QC, for the appellant; Mr Meyric Lewis for Waveney.

MR JUSTICE SEDLEY said three questions were posed for the court:

The first did no more than ask whether the Act meant what it said and the agreed answer was "yes".

The second question was: "Whether there was in the instant case any proper basis for the receipt of any or all of the spent convictions of the applicant".

The third was: "Whether before determining whether to receive such evidence a magistrates' court had to identify or have identified the issue for it to which such evidence related."

The following stages had to be gone through in any application such as that with which the justices were here concerned.

First, they had to identify what the issue was to which any spent convictions must relate if they were to be admitted. The issue here was the fitness of the applicant to hold the material licence.

Second, those responsible for presenting material to the court were to give their own objective, professional consideration to the question whether any or all of the spent convictions on the record were capable of having a real relevance to the issue which had been identified.

When the matter came before the justices it would be the advocate for the local authority who had to consider that.

When the matter was before the local authority it would be the chief constable who had to consider it.

It would be wrong and dangerous to adopt the approach commended by Mr Lewis which was to put in everything and leave it first to the local authority and then to the justices to put out of their minds what should never have been put into their minds: for example, the kind of spent conviction for consensual homosexual activity which Mr Straker was able to instance.

Next, the "judicial authority", as the Act called it, had to consider whether it should admit the convictions in the light of the issue before it.

Inevitably there would be procedural differences between what could happen before a local authority committee and what would happen before justices.

These might, however, be brought satisfactorily into line in the following way. Before justices the right course was for the local authority advocate to indicate what was the class of offence, the age of the offence and, perhaps, in broad terms, the apparent seriousness, gauged by penalty, of the offence shown by the record before him.

That was the best that could be done, without pre-empting the very decision that the justices had to take, to enable the justices to decide, having heard anything the applicant wished to say to the contrary, whether to admit any spent convictions. They might decide that some but not some others in the list ought to be put before them.

Translating that back to the stage where the matter was before the local authority, it might very well be that the chief constable should correspondingly be invited to provide a covering letter giving the same broad indications, but no more, so that the committee could decide whether it needed to go into some or all of those offences, the existence of which had been indicated to them.

That indication would of course already have been pruned of those which were clearly not relevant and should not be considered under any circumstances.

Once some or all of the spent convictions were admitted in evidence, either before the local authority committee or before justices, the applicant was then entitled naturally to be heard, not by way of suggesting that the convictions were incorrectly arrived at but in order to persuade the judicial authority that they were either irrelevant or such, by reason of their age circumstances or lack of seriousness, that they should not jeopardise his application. All of that was simple natural justice.

The judicial authority then had to come to its own dispassionate conclusion, having in mind not only the interests of the applicant as a person with spent convictions but also the interests of the public in whose interests these exceptional powers were being exercised.

The justices had erred in their approach to letting in this list of convictions but because of the near certainty that properly directed the justices would have done what they in the event did, the right course was to affirm their determination.

Solicitors: Norton Peskett, Lowestoft; Mr P. R. Cox, Lowestoft.

Term unreasonable restraint of trade

Dawnay Day & Co Ltd and Another v D'Alphen and Others

Before Mr Justice Robert Walker

[Judgment February 14]

Where a commercial bargain had been struck between business people of broadly equal bargaining power, the general principle of law was that they must be treated as the best judges of what was reasonable.

However, a provision in a company manager's service contract, prohibiting him, for one year after leaving, from offering partnership or employment to any person who had, at any time during the manager's employment, also been employed by that company as a director or senior employee, was an unreasonable restraint of trade.

Mr Justice Robert Walker so held in the Chancery Division, in an action by Dawnay, Day & Co Ltd (DD) and Wilcourt Investments Ltd against Frederic De Braconier D'Alphen, Patrick John-Pierre Johnston, Sally Ann Parkman, the managers, Cantor Fitzgerald International, an unlimited company, and Dawnay, Day Securities Ltd (DDS).

Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC and Mr Richard Hill for the plaintiffs; Mr Patrick Elias, QC and Mr Andrew Clarke for the managers; Mr Andrew Hillier for Cantor; DDS was not represented.

MR JUSTICE ROBERT WALKER said that in January 1992 the managers, then employed by Euro Suisse Securities Ltd as inter-dealer brokers of European Government bonds, entered into a joint venture agreement with DD, an old-established merchant bank.

Its terms included issue to the managers of half the equity capital in the "venture-vehicle", DDS; an investment of £650,000 by DD in DDS redeemable preference shares; salaries of £50,000 each, later raised to £100,000; an agreed investment policy of distributing 80 per cent of profits in equity dividends.

Additionally, by clause 9.1, each manager covenanted for a period of two years not to: (a) carry on or be engaged, concerned or interested in or assist any business which competed with the business of Eurobonding as carried on by DDS; (b) canvass or solicit in competition with DDS orders or custom from any person, firm or company who should have engaged its services nor assist any person so to do; (c) solicit or entice away from DDS [or endeavour to] any person who was for the time being a servant of DDS.

Clause 9.2 extended, where applicable, those restrictions to a period terminating one year after the date each manager might cease to be either an employee of a director of DDS.

Each manager, having given notice to Euro Suisse, started work at DDS on April 1, 1992. Service agreements were signed on June 18 which included clause 12.1: "During the period of this agreement and 12 months after its termination the manager shall not: ... (i) solicit or entice away [or endeavour to] from DDS any person who had been at any time during the manager's employment by DDS a director or senior employee of DDS; or (2) employ in any capacity or offer employment in any capacity to or enter into or offer to enter into partnership with any [such] person."

His Lordship having considered the authorities, concluded that the agreement of January should be approached as a commercial bargain negotiated between businessmen, in which clause 9.1(a) and (b) were enforceable as reasonable, but (c) unenforceable as an unreasonable, restraint of trade; and the service agreements of June should be approached as employer/employee contracts with clause 12.1(1) being enforceable as reasonable and 12.1(2) unenforceable as unreasonable.

Solicitors: Hobson Audley Hopkins & Wood; Olswang, Paddington; Norton Rose.

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European Law Report — Luxembourg

Value-added tax payable locally by agent of tour operator

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v DFDS A/S

Case C-260/95

Before J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, President of the Fifth Chamber and Judges L. Sévon, D. A. O. Edward, J.-P. Puissochet and M. Wathelet

Advocate General A. La Pergola

(Opinion January 16)

[Judgment February 20]

Travel services provided by a tour operator through the intermediary of an agent in another member state were liable to value-added tax in that state if the agent had the human and technical resources characteristic of a fixed establishment.

The Fifth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on a reference for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EC Treaty by the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court.

DFDS, a company incorporated in Denmark whose objects included travel, had an English subsidiary with which it concluded an agency agreement designating the subsidiary as DFDS's general sales agent in the United Kingdom and central booking office for the United Kingdom and Ireland for the passenger services of DFDS.

DFDS was assessed to VAT on the package tours marketed on its behalf by the subsidiary, on the ground that, by means of the agency agreement, DFDS had established its business in the United Kingdom or made the supplies in question from a fixed establishment in the United Kingdom in the meaning of provisions of the Value Added Tax (Tour Operators) Order (SI 1987 No 1806) which gave effect to article 26 of Sixth Council Directive 77/388/EEC of May 1977 on the harmonisation of the laws of the member states relating to turnover taxes — Common System of value added tax: uniform basis of assessment (OJ 1977 L145, p1).

The question referred in appeal proceedings was under what conditions services provided to travellers by a tour operator established in one member state through the intermediary of a company operating as an agent in another member state were liable to VAT in the latter state under article 26 of the Sixth Directive.

Article 26 provides: " (1) Member states shall apply value added tax to the operations of travel agents in accordance with the provisions of this article, where the travel agents deal with customers in their own name and use the supplies and services of other taxable persons in the provision of travel facilities ... In this article travel agents include tour operators.

"(2) All transactions performed by the travel agent in respect of a journey shall be treated as a single service supplied by the travel agent to the traveller. It shall be taxable in the member state in which the travel agent has established his business or has a fixed establishment from which the travel agent has provided the services. ..."

In its judgment the Fifth Chamber of the Court of Justice held:

DFDS contended that the services at issue were taxable at the place where it had established its business, namely Denmark, a member state which had availed itself of the possibility of exempting such services from VAT under article 28(3)(b) and Annex F of the Sixth Directive.

Article 26 used the same concepts of place where a supplier's business was established and fixed establishment as those used in article 9(2) to define the two main fiscal points of reference which could be applied to services in general.

It was therefore appropriate to refer to the rules arising from that definition of place of supply.

It was for the tax authorities of each member state to determine, from the range of options set forth in the directive, which point of reference was most appropriate to determine tax jurisdiction in respect of a given service.

The place where the supplier had established his business was a primary point of reference in as much as regard was to be had to another establishment from which the services were supplied only if the reference to the place where the supplier had established his business did not lead to a rational result for tax purposes or created a conflict with another member state: Case 168/84 *Berkholz v Finanzamt Hamburg-Mitte-Altstadt* ([1985] ECR 2251, paragraph 17).

Moreover, services could not be deemed to be supplied at such other establishment unless it was of a certain minimum size and the human and technical resources necessary for the provision of the services were permanently present: *Berkholz*, paragraph 18.

To treat all the services of a tour operator, including those supplied in other member states through undertakings operating on his behalf, as supplied from the place where the operator had established his business, would have the advantage of having a single place of taxation for all the operator's business covered by article 26.

However that treatment would not lead to a rational result for tax purposes in that it took no account of the actual place where tours were marketed, which, whatever the customer's destination, national authorities had good reason to take into consideration as the most appropriate point of reference.

Consideration of the actual economic situation was a fundamental criterion for the application of the common VAT system.

Systematic reliance on the place where the supplier had established his business could lead to distortions of competition in that it might encourage undertakings trading in one member state to establish their businesses, in order to avoid taxation, in another member state which had availed itself of the possibility of maintaining the VAT exemption for the services.

Hence, where services were provided by a tour operator from a fixed establishment which the operator had in a member state other than that in which he had established his business, the supply was taxable in the state where the fixed establishment was located.

To determine whether there was such an establishment, it was necessary first to ascertain whether the company acting in that state on behalf of the operator was independent from him.

The fact that the premises of the subsidiary, which had its own legal personality, belonged to it and not to DFDS was not conclusive, and the fact that the subsidiary was wholly owned by DFDS, and various contractual obligations imposed on it, showed that the subsidiary merely acted as an auxiliary organ of the parent.

Second, it was necessary to verify whether the establishment was of the requisite minimum size in terms of necessary human and technical resources.

It was apparent from the facts, particularly as to the number of the subsidiary's employees and the terms under which it provided services to customers, that it did not display the features of a fixed establishment.

On those grounds, the Court ruled:

Article 26(2) of the Sixth Directive was to be interpreted as meaning that, where a tour operator established in one member state provided services to travellers through the intermediary of a company operating as an agent in another member state, VAT was payable on those services in the latter state if that company, which acted as a mere auxiliary organ of the tour operator, had the human and technical resources characteristic of a fixed establishment.

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4,530.00	Allied Domecq†	436½	+ 8½	6.8	13.2
326.00	Bulmer (HP)	617½	+ 9	2.7	18.4
40.00	Burn Stewart	97½	+ ½	5.3	71.7
131.90	Glenmorangie A	970	+ 10	1.6	26.4
9,805.80	Grand Met†	488½	+ 11½	4.3	15.1
8,661.30	Guinness	458	+ 26	4.2	14.2
488.00	Highland Dist	352½	- 9	6.9	17.0
206.40	Matthew Clark†	301	+ 9½	10.0	14.4
11.70	Morrison W	107½		5.5	14.5
5,648.00	SA Breweries†	1918½	+ 21½	1.9	-

BANKS

13,575.80	ABN-AMRO	4675	+268½	2.6	18.1
10,932.00	Abbey Nat	777	- 4½	3.7	14.4
3,098.20	Alied Irish	451½	- 2½	4.8	
5,704.10	Aus New Z	386	+ 2½	4.8	
39,676.20	Bank America	7269¾	-321¾	-	
4,341.50	Bank Scotland	385	+ 14	2.6	13.3
17,300.20	Barclays	1128½	+ 89½	3.6	11.2
3,037.00	Bk of Ireland	631½	+ 16½	3.3	14.3
36,055.00	Citicorp	7458	-162½	-	
5,735.60	Commerzbk	1271½	+ 3½	3.5	-
23,371.10	Den Ind Kan Y	7345½	+ 109½	0.8	-
13,807.20	Deutsche Bk	3169½	- 3½	2.1	-
184.80	Espirito Santo	869½	+ 19½	3.9	12.1
21,456.00	Fuji Bank Y	7407½	+117½	0.6	-
13,709.50	HSBC	1574	+ 32½	3.0	14.9
27,223.20	HSBC HK	1580	+ 34½	3.0	14.6
503.10	Irish Perm	585	+ 12½	2.4	16.0
27,529.80	Lloyds TSB	514	+ 10½	3.3	15.8
11,679.90	Nat Aust Bk	791	+ 9½	5.2	10.6
13,877.10	Nat West	812	+ 17½	4.1	11.6
5,053.10	Rgl Bk Scot	618½	- 5	3.8	13.7
7,795.20	Stand Chart	793	- 11	1.9	15.5
16,061.10	Wells Fargo	2164½		1.9	
6,679.80	Westpac	359½	- 2	5.7	11.6

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

7,586.00	Bass	858½	+ 8½	3.6	16.9
16.10	Bk Sc Ire Bd	65	+ 1	3.4	17.9
40.00	Burtwood Brwl	194	+ 9½	3.6	17.4
269.10	City Centre Rest	149	+ 1½	1.9	28.1
2,313.00	Compass Grp	726½	- ½	1.5	29.8
61.00	Eldridge P 'A'	287½	- 2½	2.3	17.6
55.80	Fuller Sm 'A'	480	+ 2½	2.4	16.0
1,636.00	Greenalls Grp†	554	- 4	3.5	17.4
427.40	Grosvnr Hldg	706½	+ 14	2.8	17.4
30.20	Grosvenor Inns	212½	- 6½	3.8	20.2
67.40	Gtech Group Cbr	259½	+ 9	1.4	24.8
56.70	Hardy Hanson†	399½		4.5	13.3
78.00	Holl J	2725		2.6	14.7
56.40	Inn Business†	174½	+ 3½	2.6	-
259.70	Mansfield	354	- 5½	3.2	16.3
269.60	Marston Thmp	297	- 5½	3.2	11.7
191.40	Morland	1697½	+ 6½	2.8	19.6
47.40	My Kinds Town	188	- 2	2.0	16.4
55.00	Pizza Express	625½		-	-
366.90	PizzaExpress	555½	+ 14½	0.6	49.0
32.60	Ransdens (HH)	320	+ 21½	1.9	-
268.10	Regent Inns	2475½	- 3½	0.9	22.5
4,150.00	Scot & Newc	975	- 9½	3.7	20.4
394.10	Vaux Group	1735½	- 1	4.8	13.3
440.40	Whitbread A	1035½	- 6½	1.8	28.8
3,610.80	Whitbread	1020½	- 20½	3.6	15.9
458.60	Wolverhampton D	1683½	+ 3½	3.1	15.0
1194.90	Yates Brns	1695½	+ 2½	3.1	24.6
17.60	Young 'A'	517½	+ 21½	1.9	-

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

6.35	AAF Inds	27½		-	-
75.50	Abbey	195		3.6	20.0
114.80	Alfred	298	- ½	3.0	17.7
225.50	Amec	410	+ 9½	2.1	18.5
1,330.10	Amey	456	+ 9½	2.1	17.3
75.80	Andrew Sykes	519	+ 11½	1.3	11.3
367.80	Aoriand	2665	- 6	1.5	24.0
19.10	Avenside	44	- ½	-	-
3.94	Bailey (Benj) Cos	37½		3.5	15.1
51.40	Bamby	69½		2.9	14.7
32.60	Barrans	69½		2.5	34.7
649.30	Barratt Devs	388	+ 2½	3.7	17.1
562.00	Beazer	300	+ 2½	3.3	17.2
388.80	Bellway	1370½	- 4½	2.8	18.6
8.75	Bestwood	191½	- ½	-	-
699.50	Berkeley Gp	723	+ 5½	1.4	16.1
74.30	Best Bros	162		4.9	13.1
70.20	Boot (Henry)	360		3.7	10.9
20.90	Bovis Hms	91½	+ 3	3.3	12.7
7.07	Britannia Grp	31		5.5	-
6.55	Br Bldg & Eng	58½	- 2½	-	-
408.80	Brixton†	145½	- 4½	4.3	20.3
53.90	CALA	175	- 3½	3.4	18.8
6.53	Campbell & Ann	67½	+ 2½	-	-
7.81	Clarke T	95.30	Costain†	46					
71.10	Countryside	93	+ 1	3.1	27.0
89.80	Cross Nicholson	99½	- 1	5.8	13.5
14.00	Crostrix	83½	- 1	1.1	-
15.40	Evo Group†	167½	+ 1½	-	-
18.00	Galliford	18	+ 1	6.9	23.2
94.60	Gleeson (MJ)	927½	+ 30	2.2	17.3
4.12	Green (Eric)	53½		-	-
80.30	Hanstock Ems	297½	- 2½	1.6	22.5
406.50	Hawtin-Stuart	1495½	+ 7½	2.5	19.3
4.88	Howard Hldgs	195		5.4	19.8
167.70	James	195½		3.8	16.3
110.00	Keller	245	- 5	3.3	15.8
77.60	Kier	309½		3.7	-
139.60	Laing (J)	118		7.0	-
47.40	Laing 6.4% Cv Pf	104½		-	-
4.28	Lovell (YJ)	185		3.9	17.9
46.40	Marshalls (J)	148½	+ 11½	3.9	-
106.60	McAlpine (A)	117	+ 2½	2.3	17.2
116.10	McCarthy & S				
17.60	Mckenzie	215½	- 6	2.5	-
71.80	Morgan Sindall	282½	- 1½	2.1	21.1
189.00	Morrison Const	119	- ½	3.2	19.1
209.70	Mowlem (J)	139½	- 9	1.4	24.8
444.40	Persimmon	1235		2.5	13.6
36.00	Pochins	135	- 5	3.7	46.8
105.40	Powrmag	195½	+ 1½	2.6	25.9
35.30	Rand Ind	171½		2.4	20.1
381.10	Redrow	295	- 3	2.7	18.7
33.20	Sheriff Hidgs	72	- ½	7.5	9.6
4.54	Sherco	330		1.1	19.2
48.20	Spandex	93	+ ½	5.4	-
61.60	Sunr Hm	1495½	- 2½	6.0	13.6
42.50	Tay Homes	1385½	+ 2½	1.8	28.3
4,150.00	Tarmac	1275½	- 9½	4.7	10.2
394.10	Taylor Woodrw	1735½	- 1	4.8	13.3
440.40	Tilney Dowgls	1695½	+ 2½	1.8	28.3
14.90	Try Group	119½	- 6	5.0	15.9
31.60	Wilmington	1295½	+ 1	4.4	-
69.30	Wimpey	140½	+ ½	-	-
28.70	Wood Hidgs	54½	+ 7	3.0	22.9
725.50	Wolseley	2615½	- 4	3.1	22.3
49.70	Wiggins	9½	+ ½	9.5	23.2
317.40	Wilson (C)	1185	+ 5	2.5	20.7
471.30	Wilson Bowden	1025½	+ 4	4.9	-
566.90	Wimpey G	139	+ 4		

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

636.50	Amlingcotts	405	+ 5	1.6	15.7
1,742.30	Dechmont†	488	- 4	2.1	24.8
126.20	Enodis Elect	235	- 1½	2.5	30.6
72.80	Exndallor	149½		5.1	15.1
49.70	European Mr	95½	- ½	7.2	9.4
62.70	Evans Halshaw	297½		10.1	10.1
8.14	Fits Jackson	59½		7.9	7.9
242.50	Fredk Gask	562½	- 7½	2.1	21.5
35.40	Gardner	95½	+ 1½	3.7	-
22.80	Glenchester	75	+ ½	1.8	22.2
8.50	Greenings	109½	+ 7	8.3	17.9
27.40	Hamblet	29	+ ½	8.2	8.5
27.50	Hams. (Philip†)	260	+ 9½	4.4	15.2
188.80	Hazlem	387½	- 7½	2.4	25.5
5.91	Holdens Tech	151½		5.8	14.2
87.10	ISA Intl	214	- 1½	1.5	21.3
1,441.00	Inchcape	972½	- 6½	3.8	23.3
5.67	Jacks. (Wm)	52½		4.9	18.1
300.70	Kwik-Fit	291½	- 2	2.8	17.8
361.50	Lex Service	348	- 1	6.1	18.2
36.40	Lyndays	108		9.7	6.9
20.80	Matthew Grp	125½	+ ½	6.5	13.7
14.00	Middlesbro	134		5.2	18.8
21.00	Midgates	113½		6.5	11.6
34.50	Nichols	137	- 1	3.1	9.1
56.10	Northumbr	180	- 2	4.5	11.0
172.50	Patton	157½	+ 2½	4.1	14.9
180.00	Pendragon	399		3.5	11.2
54.40	Perry Gp	212½	+ ½	3.8	22.9
1,384.20	Premier Farnell	517½	+ 16½	2.6	20.0
35.10	Quicks Group	153½	+ 3½	3.9	10.6
30.90	RDL	340	+ 1½	1.5	40.7
3.86	Rence	24	- 1	7.5	8.5
21.50	Rowan	85		-	-
4.80	Ross Gp	39½		6.2	9.4
32.50	SSP Intl	195½	- 1½	2.6	18.6
15.20	Salvin	95		5.3	17.8
225.20	Time Products	415½	+ 5	3.3	17.9
27.10	UMECO	204	- 6	2.9	14.5
169.20	Vardy (Reg)	352½		2.8	14.2
67.80	WF Elect	115		2.6	27.2
36.10	Wilshaw	37½	- 2	2.9	11.1
114.50	Wilks	154½		3.9	13.2
34.30	Young (W)	154½	- 3½	3.9	13.3

ELECTRICITY

1,650.50	Bt Energy PIP	143½	- 1	7.1	-
1,259.30	East Midlands	570		5.9	9.9
1,227.30	London Elect	782½		7.3	10.7
3,652.80	National Grid	208	+ ½	4.1	14.3
5,853.20	Northern Elec	657		6.4	9.9
680.80	Northern Ire	551		6.5	9.8
1,253.50	Nthn Ireland	371	+ 7	6.5	9.8
4,092.70	Powergen	697½	+ 14½	4.4	7.9
1,357.30	Hydro-Elect	1551½	+ 16½	3.8	10.5
4,183.00	Scottish Power†	358	- 7½	5.6	8.8
1,951.90	Scottish Elect	748½	- 17	7.2	9.8
3,302.20	Yorkshire Elect	818½	- 19	5.6	10.5

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

98.30	Acal	491½	+ 3	2.2	16.1
164.90	Accrp Comp	187½		-	-
244.10	Admiral	387½	- 10	0.6	39.6
218.70	Anadisk†	186	- 9½	1.8	-
107.90	Anite Gp	459½		-	-
36.10	Arbon	49½	+ ½	2.3	11.8
447.50	Arlec	145	+ 1	1.4	18.1
221.50	Aston	824	+ ½	0.5	19.5
1,123.70	BICC	388		6.7	7.3
16.50	Bdon Rubbrt	153½	- ½	5.2	8.9
109.40	Blick	340	+ 5½	5.3	18.6
744.60	Bowthorpe	382½	- 5½	3.2	16.8
3.42	Bulgin (AF) 'A'	145	- ½	5.3	13.1
23.10	CML Micro	96		4.8	14.6
34.10	Chemring Hidgst	325	- 2½	1.5	21.8
103.10	Chloride	402½	- 2½	2.5	19.3
14.10	Clayhithe	70		8.2	10.5
116.70	Coloring	225	- 7½	3.6	20.5
1,547.20	Cookc Bs Syst	1695½		2.4	42.9
489.50	Data	338½	+ 4	6.0	30.1
87.00	Dimone	97		4.3	17.9
131.70	Dowding Mills	87		0.7	31.7
87.80	Dnick	285		2.8	-
2,671.40	Electrocm 'B'	5700		1.0	25.5
28.10	Elotex	39½	- ½	2.8	14.9
17,540.80	Extnson 'B'	1695½	- 14½	0.4	19.7
35.00	Exmouthy	71	- ½	2.3	17.4
433.60	Exndlenrgy	479	+ 2	2.8	17.4
1595.00	Fkny Group	635	- 5	1.6	10.6
1,147.10	Flectric Con	1395½	- 2½	2.2	16.0
93.30	Forward Tech	170	- 5½	3.5	19.1
6.80	Fortnell	37½	+ 1½	4.2	19.1
30,402.50	GEC†	375½	+ 7½	4.2	12.8
92.40	Gresley	140½	+ ½	4.2	14.1
65.40	Ind Control	173	- ½	4.6	14.1
7.95	Intelek	49½	+ 1	4.0	17.1
3.51	LPA Ind†	7		-	-
168.00	Marsha-Sir	26		3.8	17.9
20.40	Microvitec	169½	- 2½	2.8	14.9
449.00	Mitel	419	- ½	2.8	14.9
208.20	Oxford Instr	382	- 2	1.9	18.0
347.30	Pace Micro†	1855½	+ 7½	0.4	42.6
4.21	Pace Industry	372	- 16	4.1	11.3
180.50	Peak	1250½	+ 13	3.7	9.4
9,265.60	Philips Lmp nv	1439½	+ 3½	3.7	24.3
8.85	Plasmon	164½	- 1	3.6	10.4
48.40	Premier	212½	- ½	2.1	22.1
117.80	Pressac	395½	- 1½	1.5	13.2
18.50	Prostech	41½	- ½	2.4	15.8
300.20	Racal	404	+ 2½	2.5	31.5
819.60	Racal Elect	268	+ 2	2.6	24.6
29.40	Redman	238	- 2	2.7	15.4
245.70	Renishaw	1195	+ 2½	1.0	30.1
6.00	Reuters	238½	- 1	4.2	10.1
118.20	Rodine	79.70	SDV Bus Sys	405	- 10½	0.7	8.8
41.30	Servotron	46.30	Silverstone	403½	- 10½	0.7	-
5,317.70	TDK	6800		0.8	14.5
18.00	TEL	218.30	TLG	120	+ ½	2.5	-
7.78	Tadpole Tech	83.00	Telemedia	295½	- 2	3.1	12.0
68.00	Telspec	68.00	Thorn Emi	1215½	- 4½	4.9	10.5
18.10	Thorpe Fw	3.06	Tom Tailored	145	- 10½	3.1	11.9
92.60	Tunstall	109.00	Vardy	305½	+ 2½	2.2	18.1
105.00	Vardy	112.70	Vero	1295½	+ 4½	3.1	-
117.20	Volex	2.96	Wakefldcrane	13	- ½	-	-
45.70	Wesson	34.30	Young (H)	154½	+ 1½	2.0	44.6

ENGINEERING

74.30	AMI	492	+ 17	1.8	17.4
217.40	APV	703		2.4	15.3
30.00	ASW	36		2.8	27.7
148.70	Alumasc	337½		5.9	15.3
77.40	Alvis	135½	- 9½	4.2	11.0
10.60	Ash & Lacy	209½		4.8	13.5
66.80	Atlas Evslv	80½		6.2	9.5
10.60	Avesbur Metal	105½		3.3	9.5
1,495.50	BBA	351½	- 22	4.8	28.9
59.30	BET	122	- ½	6.5	11.5
120.20	Babcock	77		-	7.6
5.28	Bailey (GH)	125	- 2	2.6	18.3
194.30	Bayers (Gladstn)	41		2.0	11.2
19.10	Blenkinsop	41		2.4	-
16.40	Bremner Group†	130	- 3	4.1	23.4
211.40	Bridport Ind	1		11	32.9
1.81	Bdon	694.00	Brotherton	345½	- 4½	4.1	10.2
3.40	Brown Inds	21.00	Brunswick	20½		-	-
69.40	Bryan	131.70	Bowling Mills	87		0.7	31.7
87.80	Dnick	2,671.40	Electrocm 'B'	5700		1.0	25.5
28.10	Elotex	17,540.80	Extnson 'B'	1695½	- 14½	0.4	19.7
35.00	Exmouthy	433.60	Exndlenrgy	479	+ 2	2.8	17.4
1595.00	Fkny Group	1,147.10	Flectric Con	1395½	- 2½	2.2	16.0
93.30	Forward Tech	6.80	Fortnell	37½	+ 1½	4.2	19.1
30,402.50	GEC†	375½	+ 7½	4.2	12.8
92.40	Gresley	140½	+ ½	4.2	14.1
65.40	Ind Control	173	- ½	4.6	14.1
7.95	Intelek	49½	+ 1	4.0	17.1
3.51	LPA Ind†	7		-	-
168.00	Marsha-Sir	26		3.8	17.9
20.40	Microvitec	169½	- 2½	2.8	14.9
449.00	Mitel	419	- ½	2.8	14.9
208.20	Oxford Instr	382	- 2	1.9	18.0
347.30	Pace Micro†	1855½	+ 7½	0.4	42.6
4.21	Pace Industry	372	- 16	4.1	11.3
180.50	Peak	1250½	+ 13	3.7	9.4
9,265.60	Philips Lmp nv	1439½	+ 3½	3.7	24.3
8.85	Plasmon	164½	- 1	3.6	10.4
48.40	Premier	212½	- ½	2.1	22.1
117.80	Pressac	395½	- 1½	1.5	13.2
18.50	Prostech	41½	- ½	2.4	15.8
300.20	Racal	404	+ 2½	2.5	31.5
819.60	Racal Elect	268	+ 2	2.6	24.6
29.40	Redman	238	- 2	2.7	15.4
245.70	Renishaw	1195	+ 2½	1.0	30.1
6.00	Reuters	238½	- 1	4.2	10.1
118.20	Rodine	79.70	SDV Bus Sys	405	- 10½	0.7	8.8
41.30	Servotron	46.30	Silverstone	403½	- 10½	0.7	-
5,317.70	TDK	6800		0.8	14.5
18.00	TEL	218.30	TLG	120	+ ½	2.5	-
7.78	Tadpole Tech	83.00	Telemedia	295½	- 2	3.1	12.0
68.00	Telspec	68.00	Thorn Emi	1215½	- 4½	4.9	10.5
18.10	Thorpe Fw	3.06	Tom Tailored	145	- 10½	3.1	11.9
92.60	Tunstall	109.00	Vardy	305½	+ 2½	2.2	18.1
105.00	Vardy	112.70	Vero	1295½	+ 4½	3.1	-
117.20	Volex	2.96	Wakefldcrane	13	- ½	-	-
45.70	Wesson	34.30	Young (H)	154½	+ 1½	2.0	44.6

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

102.70	Ashtead	124	+ ½	7.3	26.4
16.60	Ashtead Group	185		5.1	8.4
200.50	Aven Rubber	74½	- 2½	3.3	14.4
315.50	BSR	180½	+ ½	3.6	18.6
43.50	Bradnam	25½		3.5	13.0
10.00	Brentnall	16½		1.8	28.0
108.50	Fred Tacht	674	- 1	1.8	20.0
3,344.70	GKN	947½	+ 7½	3.3	16.4
23,359.10	General Mtr	5080½	- 14½	3.1	13.3
218.00	Hardys	1855½	+ 7½	7.6	8.9
18,445.10	Honda Motor	3720½	+ 16½	0.4	17.5
520.00	Lucas	373	- 16	6.1	11.3
5,040.00	Mazda	1314	- 9	3.0	12.6
2,760.00	LucasVarity	1415½	+ 7½	1.8	40.2
358.50	Maydown	1697½	- 2	4.4	12.3
40.70	Sethens	305½	- 2	5.0	10.6
809.00	T & N	216	+ 2	12.5	9.3
7.55	Toad	264½	+ 1½	0.3	
175.00	Tyssy Hldgs	312½	- 3	3.4	15.9

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

4,401.00	AB Foods†	488	- 16	2.4	16.1
131.40	Acatos & Hutch	302½		4.0	16.1
312.30	Albert Fisher	205		4.9	10.6
26.00	Allied Colloids	95½	- ½	10.5	10.7
78.00	Ber (Arg)	351½	- ½	5.0	28.8
28.40	Bensons Crisp	82	- 4	3.3	13.7
852.30	Booker	1115	+ 15½	2.2	27.8
12.80	Bovis Mark	102		4.1	10.3
28.90	CPL Avenue	83½	- 2½	4.1	16.5
4,500.00	Chelsea Man	1695½	+ 3½	3.5	10.3
18.70	Cmsfield Pizza	219		4.6	10.3
23.50	Clans Milling	77½		3.2	6.0
33.00	Cranswick	234½		3.1	13.7
339.00	Crosfield	225	+ 2½	5.1	10.3
248.80	Dairy Crest Group	205	+ 1½	4.9	28.8
662.00	Delyngr	390½		3.2	15.4
13.40	Dickinson S	95		2.1	17.2
445.50	Dnrn	1295½	+ 6½	3.5	27.6
89.00	Foley (Jonas)	108	+ 2½	4.2	11.0
135.10	Geest	1697½	+ 3½	3.4	15.9
34.10	Global	373	+ 2	2.4	-
607.70	Hazlewood	1695½	+ 11½	1.1	-
270.10	Hazlewood Fds	1439½	+ 3½	3.2	15.6
1,920.20	Hillsdown	211½	- 2½	3.1	23.0
21.50	JU Group	205	+ 6½	3.5	27.6
1,931.00	Kelsey Food	1695½	+ 3½	3.2	17.2
1,302.20	Kellogg Co	1695½		2.4	14.7
445.50	Kerry	1695½	+ 3½	2.2	15.6
89.00	Kerry Group	1695½	+ 3½	2.2	15.6
135.10	Lambert Hwth	1695½	+ 3½	2.2	15.6
1,260.00	Lyons (J)	1695½	+ 3½	2.2	15.6
1,300.20	Northern Foods	1695½	+ 3½	2.2	15.6
1,234.70	Premier Brands	1695½	+ 3½	2.2	15.6
3,174.00	Ranks Hovis†	1695½	+ 3½	2.2	15.6
14.50	Ribby Hall	1695½	+ 3½	2.2	15.6
38.40	Unipork	1695½	+ 3½	2.2	15.6
33.40	Unipork (I)	1695½	+ 3½	2.2	15.6
69.80	VA Tech	1695½	+ 3½	2.2	15.6
65.50	Vitec	1695½	+ 3½	2.2	15.6
45.60	Wagstaff	1695½	+ 3½	2.2	15.6
51.00	Watkins & Lidlaw	1695½	+ 3½	2.2	15.6
124.40	Weetabix	1695½	+ 3½	2.2	15.6
185.80	Premier Farnell	1695½	+ 3½	2.2	15.6
1,174.00	Johnson Matth	1695½	+ 3½	2.2	15.6
1,174.00	Jones Stroud†	1695½	+ 3½	2.2	15.6
14.50	Ribby Hall	1695½	+ 3½	2.2	15.6
38.40	Unipork	1695½	+ 3½	2.2	15.6
33.40	Unipork (I)	1695½	+ 3½	2.2	15.6
69.80	VA Tech	1695½	+ 3½	2.2	15.6
65.50	Vitec	1695½	+ 3½	2.2	15.6
45.60	Wagstaff	1695½	+ 3½	2.2	15.6
51.00	Watkins & Lidlaw	1695½	+ 3½	2.2	15.6
124.40	Weetabix	1695½	+ 3½	2.2	15.6
185.80	Premier Farnell	1695½	+ 3½	2.2	15.6

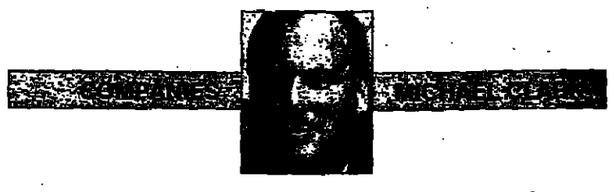
HEALTHCARE

723.40	Amersham	1313	- 7	1.8	21.7
14.20	Arrogenx	30½		-	-
21.20	Assoc Resig	126½	- ½	2.3	9.6
150.50	Bespak†	364	+ 2	2.4	8.8
918.50	Biocompt Int	1695½	+ 3½	1.2	15.4
46.00	Care Int	105½	- 2	-	-
98.10	Celsis	373½	+ ½	0.3	17.0
127.00	Community H	172½	- 1	5.8	16.8
56.00	CrossCare	22	- ½	-	-
5.70	Enrlsmead	141½	- 2	3.5	14.2
16.00	Fermec Group	138½	- ½	3.6	13.0
98.70	Goldsborough†	140½	- ½	3.6	14.2
30.50	Healigh Int	103	- 16	3.2	15.6
23.70	Interclin Gpl	338½	+ ½	2.1	16.5
47.30	Intrnx	152½		-	44.0
231.50	Life Sciencest	573.10	Lon Int†	1695½	+ 3½	3.1	-
98.80	Medeo-BHA	1695½	+ 3½	3.1	-
5.00	Medeva Health	4		-	-
48.70	Quality Care†	103½		2.3	8.8
269.00	Scherer	2695½	+ 3½	2.1	21.9
250.00	Sthkln Health	1695½	+ 3½	2.1	21.9
101.70	Shield Diag	1695½	+ 3½	2.1	21.9
2,111.50	Smith & Neph	1695½	+ 3½	2.1	21.9
193.10	TC Group	1695½	+ 3½	2.1	21.9
14.70	Tarsus†	1695½	+ 3½	2.1	21.9
448.40	UniChem	1695½	+ 3½	2.1	21.9
171.80	West Pharm	1695½	+ 3½	2.1	21.9

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

64.40	Allegheny	233	+ 8	2.6	16.5
105.00	Allen	293	+ 3	3.4	14.9
11.20	Aurora	39½		3.8	27.5
8.15	BLP Group	1225	- 3½	3.7	18.6
6.20	Bilton Bdson	87	+ 2	-	17.4
18.50	Black Arrow	87	- 2	8.7	8.7
208.20	Bssd Dmnd	373½	+ ½	1.9	20.9
73.00	Caswell Prtr Sp	172½	-

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BAe profits will reach for the sky

BRITISH AEROSPACE: The City expects another impressive performance from BAe, where Sir Richard Evans is chief executive, when it unveils full-year figures on Wednesday. Recent progress has been reflected in the shares, which in the past year have taken off from 788p to touch a peak of almost £13.

A 26 per cent increase in operating profits during the first six months will have been exceeded in the second half. At the pre-tax level NatWest Securities is forecasting a rise of 33 per cent from £330 million to £440 million, while rival UBS predicts a 38 per cent climb to £455 million.

A growing defence orderbook will provide the main thrust to increased profitability, with cash revenues benefiting from the start of deliveries of Tornadoes to Saudi Arabia. Future profits growth will be underpinned by the development of the Eurofighter. On the civil aircraft side, losses continue to be reduced. NatWest is looking for a 25 per cent increase in the net dividend to 25 per cent.

NATWEST BANK: All eyes will be on the performance of NatWest Markets when the parent bank reports on Tuesday. After the sharp fall in profits reported by BZW, the global investment banking arm of fellow clearing bank Barclays, analysts will be looking to see how the two compare.

SBC Warburg has pencilled in a pre-tax profit for the full year of £1.25 billion for NatWest, compared with £1.75 billion in 1995. Costs will include NatWest's branch closing programme, unveiled at the half-year, which will reduce the workforce by 10,000 over four years and which at the interim stage contributed towards the drop in group profits. The full-year figures will also include the £690 million loss on the disposal of Bancorp, its US retail and commercial banking operation, which the group sold last May.

ABBEY NATIONAL: The acquisitive instincts of Peter Birch, chief executive of Abbey National, which is expected to report annual pre-tax profits of around £1.2 billion, will be to the fore on Thursday. The bank's £1.4 billion bid for Scottish Amicable will be tabled the following day and stacked up against those of the Prudential and possibly AMP, the Australian insurer. The deciding factor in the ScotAm bid could be the Scottish card so cannily played by the Abbey which already owns Scottish Mutual. The two headquarters are geographically close and the promise on job security, including those of the ScotAm directors, could win the day. Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, is taking a keen personal interest in the outcome.

PRUDENTIAL: Another Scottish Amicable suitor presents its full-year figures on Wednesday, which will include a final contribution from M&G, the reinsurer, sold in December. Estimates of operating pre-tax profits are £870-£880 million compared with £804 million.

Life profits are expected to be 16 per cent up on the previous year with much of the impetus coming from Jackson National, which should be sharply higher because of the recovery in new business and its increasing maturity. A 10 per cent increase in the payout to 17.2p is also on the cards.

STANDARD CHARTERED: No bank will follow developments in China after the death of Deng Xiaoping more closely than Standard Chartered, which reports on Wednesday. Last month Standard, expected to unveil annual pre-tax profits of between £855 million and £870 million, was one of only eight foreign banks, together with HSBC, to be granted a licence to trade in the Renminbi currency. The half-time profits of £448 million were flattered by the proceeds from the sale of the group's private banking arm. Provided the other countries in Standard's portfolio, such as India, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and certain African regions, produce no upsets, shareholders can expect a "solid" rise on last year's second-half dividend of 7.75p and a full-year payout of 11p.

BRITISH GAS: Thursday's full-year figures will be the last after the recent demerger of the business into two separate companies, BG Group and Centrica. To a large extent they are irrelevant although the group may take the opportunity to wipe the slate clean. Net income is expected to be virtually stagnant at around £907 million. But the group will tumble into the red after write-offs which some brokers estimate could be as much as £1.3 billion. The underlying performance is likely to be flat, although TransCo will have benefited from reduced costs. The company has already forecast a final dividend of 8.1p, making an unchanged 14.5p for the year.



Sir Richard Evans expects BAe's profits to be underpinned by the Eurofighter, despite US competition

THORN: After last month's profits warning, there are unlikely to be many suprises when third-quarter figures are revealed this morning. Pre-tax profits will have grown 8 per cent from £113.5 million to £123 million, with brokers having pencilled in £170 million for the year. A first time dividend of 13p is expected for the full year.

EMI: A disappointing performance is expected from the other half of the Thorn EMI demerger. Poor trading conditions in the music division will leave operating profits around £3 million lower at £213 million. Brokers say trading has been hit by currency factors, the depressed US retail market and a dull release schedule. A full-year £400 million has been pencilled in.

COMMERCIAL UNION: Currency fluctuations and bad weather are likely to have made a sharp dent in final-quarter profits and will have depressed the overall results. Wednesday's full-year figures should show operating profits overall down from £509 million to £451 million. This will also affect the net asset value, which will have dropped from 582p a share to 572p-578p. A rising tax charge will see earnings fall, but the City is looking for the payout to be increased by 7 per cent to 30.25p.

GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE: Full-year figures tomorrow are likely to see a sharper fall than CU. Operating profits should have declined by around 27 per cent to £253 million. The market range is £240-£270 million, with restructuring costs taking their toll. US results will have been hit by poor weather, while Europe will have seen a further decline in underwriting profits.

GEORGE WIMPEY: Further evidence of a housing pick-up should be reflected in full-year figures tomorrow. Pre-tax profits are likely to have almost doubled to £30 million, with earnings growing from 1.6p to 5.3p. Brokers will want to know how Wimpey intends to increase land bank and if a buyer has been found for its Morrison Homes business in the US.

LASMO: A stronger oil price should provide the basis for a sharp recovery in profitability when full-year figures are published on Thursday. UBS is forecasting a leap of 585 per cent in net income to £103 million. Brokers will be anxious to discover what new projects are planned. An increase of 20 per cent in the payout to 1.2p is expected.

RTZ: The drop in copper and aluminium prices will make a sizeable dent in profitability when the group reports full-year figures on Thursday. During 1996 the copper price fell 22 per cent to 104 cents, while aluminium was 16 per cent down to 70 cents. Earnings are expected to be down around 15 per cent to £671 million, although there may be a token increase in the payout to 27.2p. The continuing delay in start-up of the new Kennecott smelter will provide a further drag on profits in the current year.

TODAY

Interims: Canadian Overseas Packaging, Community Hospitals, Gearhouse Group, Hanson (q1), Pizza-Express, Thorn (q3). **Finals:** Dixon Motors, Estates & General, Fitch, Hibernian Group, Regal Hotel Group, Skipton Building Society. **Economic statistics:** US Treasury January budget statement, US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills.

TOMORROW

Interims: Alumasc, EMI (nine months), Primadona, Kleinwort High Income, Sema Group, William Sinclair Holdings. **Finals:** Admiral, Capita Group, Coventry Building Society, Guardian Royal Exchange, Jermyn Investment Property, NatWest Bank, Newcastle Building Society, Scottish Television, Shires Smaller Companies, Trocadero, George Wimpey. **Economic statistics:** none.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Bellwinch, Logica, Pitco Holdings, Quayle Munro, Renishaw. **Finals:** Access Plus, Brewin Dolphin Holdings, British Aerospace, Capital Shopping Centres, Commercial Union, Crestacare, Delphi Group, Fairway Group, Inveresk, ISA International, Mayflower Corporation, Standard Chartered, Vardon, Zotefoams. **Economic statistics:** UK December global trade balance, UK January non-EU trade balance, Bank of England announces result of gilt auction, Bundesbank awards repos.

THURSDAY

Interims: none. **Finals:** Abbey National, Beta Global Emerging Markets, British Gas, Burford Holdings, Green Property Company, Lasmo, Lex Service, Liberty International Holdings, Norish, Quarto Group, RTZ Corporation, Stanford Rook Holdings. **Economic statistics:** Wirral South by-election, Hans Tietmeyer, President of the Bundesbank, to speak at financial markets conference, Bank of France monetary policy council meeting, US weekly jobless claims report, US January durable goods, US January existing home sales.

FRIDAY

Interim: Eidos. **Finals:** Henlys Group, Scotswood Industries, United Industries. **Economic statistics:** UK British Bankers Association January mortgage lending.

The Mail on Sunday: **Buy** Torday, Epicore Networks. **Hold** Manx & Overseas. *The Sunday Telegraph:* **Hold** Shield Diagnostics, Stanford Rook. **Buy** Merchant Retail, London & Edinburgh Publishing, Caverdale, Allen, Golden Rose Communications, Zeneca. *The Sunday Times:* **Buy** British Telecom, Wimpey, Mayflower, LucasVarity, Community Hospitals, SEC. **Hold** Wembley, RTZ-CRA.

Crédit Lyonnais to get more aid

FROM LEYLA LINTON IN BRUSSELS

JEAN ARTHUIS, the French Finance Minister, is set to announce this week up to Fr 30 billion of new state aid to Crédit Lyonnais, the French bank that has only recently returned to a small profit after several years of disastrous losses. The French Government is expected to approach the European Commission for approval of the restructuring aid.

However, Karel Van Miert, EU Commisioner for Competition, has yet to receive a communication from the French, according to his spokesman.

The Department of Trade and Industry is understood to have written to Mr Van Miert last month, supporting the Commission in its stance in questioning the need for state aid for Credit Lyonnais, although a spokeswoman for the DTI refused to comment.

The new aid would come on top of an earlier package of state aid worth Fr45 billion, a sum which the Commission describes as "enormous" and only reluctantly approved in 1995 on condition the bank sell 35 per cent of its foreign banking network by the end of next year. In September last year the Commission approved a further Fr3.9 billion of emergency state aid.



Van Miert: letter from DTI

The Commission says state aid for restructuring should only need to be granted once. It should be strictly necessary and competitors should be compensated for the adverse effects of the aid. Tough conditions would be imposed if it approves any future restructuring aid.

Take the rollercoaster ride

Will the gilt market peak on election night? There are good reasons to believe that it might. This contrasts with the growing market optimism that gilts will rally in the second half of 1997, once the election is over and the impact of sterling's strength on the economy becomes apparent.

There is an election night effect. The past two elections have had a significant influence on gilt-market performance. In 1992 gilts sold off sharply in the month before the election, but reversed their losses in the immediate run-up to election day, in anticipation of the Conservatives' remarkable recovery.

The 1987 election also proved to be an important watershed and there are some especially interesting parallels with today. In 1987 economic growth was above trend, sterling was in one of its few strengthening phases and the election outcome looked fairly certain. Today growth is slower than ten years ago, sterling's progress is more pronounced and the election unlikely to result in any adverse policy changes.

In the six months before the 1987 election gilts rallied sharply, with yields falling 140 basis points. Although gilts will not match their 1987 performance, they are expected to do well in the coming weeks. After the election, a sharp sell-off as in 1987 is unlikely, but gilt yields are expected to drift higher.

Turning to the fundamentals, there are four main reasons for near-term optimism. First, UK underlying inflation, despite disappointing January figures, is likely to fall. Assuming a May 1 election, the two monthly retail price releases before then should see the annual underlying rate moving below 3 per cent and heading for 2½ per cent. Some of the reasons are well-rehearsed — sterling's 15 per cent rise over the past six months, core producer output price inflation of just 0.7 per cent, wage settlements of only 3 per cent and so on.

But a new factor is the 14 per cent decline in the oil price over the past three weeks. The increase in the oil price last year has added between ¼ per cent and ½ per cent to underlying inflation in recent months. The oil price fall is unlikely to feed through in time for the Government to achieve its target of underlying inflation of below 2½ per cent by the end of this Parliament but, even so, it will help gilt market sentiment in the near term.

Secondly, fears of an early increase in base rates have eased, partly because of sterling's strength and the improved inflation outlook, but also because of mixed growth numbers. An additional and growing element behind the downward shift in interest rate expectations is the prospect of fiscal tightening from an incoming Labour government, which would lessen the urgency for any post-election base-rate rise.

Thirdly, the markets view a Labour victory positively, a remarkable achievement by the party's leaders. Policies such as a more positive attitude towards the single European currency, greater Bank of England independence and tight public spending targets are all gilt-friendly.

Fourthly, global bond yields have fallen this year — by 10 basis points in the US and by 28 basis points in Germany on ten-year bonds — and look set to remain low for now.

There are longer-term negatives. By election night or thereabouts, all the buyers will have bought and investors may reconsider their rose-tinted post-election investment strategies.

All four points above could turn sour in the second half of 1997. Underlying inflation may reach 2½ per cent, but will then move sideways or begin to edge higher. Fears of base-rate rises will re-emerge as growth proves firmer than expected, because of strong labour and housing markets and renewed growth in Europe. Labour's frailties may begin to appear once in office: of the Shadow Cabinet, only a handful have previous ministerial experience and none have held senior office. And finally, global bond yields, which acount for half of all movements in gilt yields, will be rising by May 1 or certainly near their lows.

In conclusion, gilt investors should ride the rollercoaster for now, but prepare to exit before Labour's May Day celebrations.

DICK HOWARD AND ADRIAN OWENS
Julius Baer Investments Limited

Markets focus on Wirral South result

There are very few statistical releases in Britain this week and most of the market's attention is likely to fall on Thursday's by-election in Wirral South. Labour is expected to win and so consolidate its position as clear favourite to win the forthcoming election. It is, however, hard to see what impact this will have on markets, which are already well used to the idea of a Labour victory.

Another focus of interest could be tomorrow's speech by Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, to an international bond conference in London. Otherwise, the markets will be looking at Wednesday's trade figures. December's global visible trade is expected to show a deficit of £1.1 billion compared with a shortfall of £959 million in November. Meanwhile January figures for non-European Union trade are expected, according to the market consensus compiled by MMS International, to show a deficit of £700 million compared with December's trade gap of £844 million.

Otherwise, the main focus of the markets this week will be the two days of Humphrey-Hawkins testimony by Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve. He testifies before the Senate Banking Committee on Wednesday and the House Banking subcommittee on Thursday. Mr Greenspan's remarks will be scrutinised closely for any hint of his leanings on US interest rate policy.

Adam Chester, international bond strategist at Yamaichi International Europe, said: "The benign nature of the recent inflation data has taken some of the heat out of the US policy debate, although the markets will be looking to Mr Greenspan for implicit confirmation that a rate rise in March (and May?) is off the cards." He believes that Friday's second estimate of fourth-quarter US GDP should support the argument for unchanged rates.

JANET BUSH

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UK urged to use euro alongside the pound

BY MARTIN WALLER

AN INNOVATORY plan from the Adam Smith Institute, the free market think-tank, suggests Britain should adopt a two-stage approach to economic monetary union by making the euro, the EU's planned super-currency, legal tender alongside the pound.

Madsen Pirie, president of the institute, in a paper published today, argues that if Britain is not, as widely expected, in the first wave of countries joining a single currency, it could still see the benefit by adopting the euro as legal tender for all but the smallest transactions.

This would allow the euro to circulate freely through Britain and give business and citizens access to it. British firms would be able to trade in the currency, for example making and receiving payments through euro bank accounts, rather than being subject to the whims of the currency markets.

Dr Pirie concedes that his idea is similar to the "hard ecu" proposed by Britain that was to have circulated alongside national currencies, except that other European nations were too far down the road to a single currency to be interested. "If the euro is indeed built upon the sand of fudged criteria, it might well float down against the pound in the period after its launch," he writes. "The greatest advantage of all is that it would allow us to test the quality of the euro."

Conversely, if a future UK government were tempted to print money and fuel inflation to solve short-term problems, British citizens could seek refuge in the euro to protect their savings. "People would use the one they preferred, the one they trusted," Dr Pirie believes.

There are plenty of countries that accept two currencies on a *de facto* basis — sterling and the Irish pound are acceptable both sides of the border, the US dollar is almost as good as the Canadian one north of the 49th Parallel, in Hong Kong anything goes as long as it is money, and Russians prefer the greenback to the rouble.

Dr Pirie says: "From the Government's point of view, it has the attraction that it would probably unite the Conservative Party. And, as so often happens these days, it would surely be only a matter of time before new Labour announced that it, too, had accepted the new policy . . ."



If selected by the Norwegians, the Eurofighter will provide BAe and its partners with a contract worth £400 million

Oslo's sights on Eurofighter

BY OLIVER AUGUST

BRITISH AEROSPACE is close to registering its biggest Eurofighter export success so far with a contract worth £400 million. Norway is the first country outside the four nations building the aircraft to put the multi-role fighter on a final selection list.

If the Eurofighter is selected this will be another boost for BAe, which is expected to report a 33 per cent increase in profits to £440 million on Wednesday. The Royal Norwegian Ministry of Defence committed itself to buying either the Eurofighter or the American F16 for delivery in 2003. An estimated 40 aircraft will be purchased.

A spokesman for Dasa, the German Eurofighter partner, said the Norwegians' decision will trigger a breakthrough in export negotiations. These could bring billions of pounds to the European defence industry and would create up to 14,000 jobs in Britain.

He said: "This is of paramount importance for marketing efforts and will influence procurement decisions in other Nato countries and maybe the Middle East. There is a close link between Oslo and Copenhagen and this will encourage the Danes to get the Eurofighter."

The Norwegian decision is seen as vindication of the BAe and Dasa strategy to stick to the Eurofighter through its many problems. The Rafale fighter, France's answer to the Eurofighter, was deselected by the Norwegians.

BAe has argued that export sales will make the British Government's support for the project worthwhile. In return for the taxpayers' money spent on the Eurofighter, the Treasury stands to reap millions in tax revenue from exports.

Nevertheless, BAe's marketing strategy for the Eurofighter is being openly challenged by its American rival. The BAe case for the Eurofighter rests on the argument that its higher price compared with all competitor aircraft except the F22 is justified by its performance.

But Lockheed Martin, which manufactures the F16, claims that the updated version is a match for the Eurofighter. Dain Hancock, president of Lockheed's tactical aircraft division, said: "The technology of the newest F16 can compete effectively against any multi-role fighter in the world."

Norway has been flying earlier F16s since the 1980s, according to Lockheed. The country is participating in a European five-nation programme, which includes the Danish airforce, to update the F16.

Computer Cabs on track for March 4 start

BY FRASER NELSON

COMPUTER CABS has won its battle to join the Alternative Investment Market, with more than half of its 2,000 member drivers voting with their wallets and subscribing for shares.

The company, which operates London's largest network of black cabs, has named March 4 as its date for joining the junior exchange, after fending off three legal actions to thwart its flotation plans.

While a mass meeting of 800 cabbies supported the flotation in November, rebels who wanted free shares in return for the £3.5 million they paid towards a satellite tracking system tried to prevent the float. They claim that only a quarter of the drivers have been fitted with the system.

However, after a successful placing, Computer Cabs has now raised £4 million — enough to complete the £7.5 million needed for the complete satellite system.

VFG, the film and TV production company whose finance director is David Stamp, joins the market this week valued at £7 million. It has raised £3 million for new equipment. The Screen, which provides touchtone security control systems, plans to raise £2 million through a flotation next month.

Other companies hovering around the market include Q Group, which publishes economics and languages products. It is looking to raise £4 million to fund growth.

Avalon Oil, an oil exploration company which has joined forces with Gazprom, is raising £35 million from a placing and should join AIM in three weeks' time.

The newcomers will join a market that is marooned at a near high, but has failed to break through its peak for the third week in succession. The FT-SE AIM index, which surged by some 10 per cent over four weeks, gained by 1.2 points last week to close at 1,129.90.

While the calm owes a lot to the stability of AIM's giants, its penny shares have been helping to prop up the market with a minor resurgence.

The market value of Epic Multimedia, whose shares last month performed one of the most spectacular nosedives seen on the junior exchange, recovered by some 27 per cent last week, with a rise from 11p to 14p per share.



Stamp: VFG market launch

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

1996/97 High	Low	Mkt cap (million)	Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
150½	117½	11.90 AFA Systems	118½	...	...	11.4
153½	109	21.70 AMCO Corp	152½	- 70	...	26.7
432½	67	65.80 AMD Int Pub	307½	...	...	...
107½	18	5.53 Abacus Recruit	100½	...	...	...
15	14½	Abacus Rec P/P	14½	...	2.9	19.7
150½	99½	21.00 Access Pfwr	148½	...	...	...
161	58½	16.50 Active Imaging	90	- 3½	3.9	15.0
216	123	29.50 A de Giuchy	200	...	...	23.3
20½	7¼	11.30 African Gold	11	- ¼	...	...
117½	66	48.50 Airtech	105½	- 6	0.8	20.7
41	13	14.40 Albemarle & Bd	38	- 1	...	...
58	29½	5.62 Albyme	32½	...	...	...
24	2¼	1.85 Alpha Omikron	2½	- ½	...	...
525	380	50.00 Anc St Brewery	1085	+ 11	4.7	11.8
1085	885	6.43 Anc St Cv Pf	1085	...	7.4	...
121	46	55.10 Ashtenne	75½	+ 8	1.0	55.6
100½	100	10.20 Archer Dedicated	100	...	...	35.4
9	7	1.76 Arbon Props	8½	- ½	...	...
115	29½	69.20 Ashanti	88	- 15	...	...
280	68	28.90 Ask Central	186	+ 1	...	...
64½	55	1.16 Attesbury Trust	64½	...	...	...
149½	123	42.10 BAIM Adv Convers	135½	...	...	...
68	52½	10.10 Barbican Health	52½	- 2½	...	...
8	6½	11.50 Barnsdwell	7½	...	...	9.0
6	2¼	6.13 Beardsworth	3¼	...	...	34.5
4¼	2¼	6.23 Beaufort	3¼	...	...	17.4
4¼	2½	6.23 Bilston Biltron	70	- ...	...	...
90½	40	1.11 Bowness Lists	182½	+ 15	3.5	10.4
162½	140	0.34 Bown Lists Cv Pf	70	...	...	...
70	70	9.80 Bspcade Hldgs	68½	- 1	2.1	26.0
70	41	3.84 Bt Bloodstock	51	...	1.7	17.0
107	87	64.30 Brickbank	165½	- 2	0.6	22.2
335	240	17.60 CA Coutts Hldgs	175	...	...	...
167½	116	8.97 C & B Publishing	109½	...	...	...
180	128½	0.12 CCI Founder Shs	150	+ 9½	2.1	14.6
116	109½	1.20 CDI Hldgs	198	- 15	1.6	13.7
150½	116	9.43 Calx Inns	70	...	...	...
213	95	8.57 Caledonian Tst	3¼	...	...	...
75	55	3.25 Calidore Group	4½	+ ¼	...	...
3½	3	2.00 Calidore Grp Wts	1¼	- ¼	...	...
1½	0½	39.40 Card Clear	90½	- 7	5.0	...
46	27½	9.17 Carisbrooke Ship	55	- 1	6.8	14.2
108	85½	3.01 Cassidy Bros	55	...	3.4	26.3
72	48	2.40 Cavendish W	17	+ ½	2.0	15.0
21	16	5.66 Celebrated Group	2385	+2000	...	...
£550	6550	114.50 Celtic	2285	+2000	3.1	13.1
£450	6450	Celtic Pl Sbs	111½	+ ½	...	17.9
124	96½	15.00 Ch Cocross(TV)	8	...	...	...
9	5¼	8.00 Charlesbourne	35½	...	...	...
86	39½	4.97 Chartwell Intl	181½	- 4½	...	38.0
170	53	242.20 Chelsea Village	245	+ 25	...	7.0
265	110	15.90 Chemical Design	91	...	...	12.7
202½	90	9.89 Circle Comms	110	...	...	...
110	110	0.99 Clay Homes	2½	...	2.4	10.3
35	2½	1.05 ClubFashions	527½	...	...	...
542½	486	12.70 Com de Pri Fin	16	+ 2	...	...
21	14	7.53 Concescent Tech	85	...	...	...
100	85	0.24 Conc Tech A Pri	85	...	...	...
100	85	0.19 Conc Tech B Pri	85	...	...	...
125	115	0.84 Conc Tech Rd Pf	125	...	...	...
225	215	0.17 Conc Tech Cv Pf	225	...	6.6	...
44	35½	8.69 Conster Tst	39½	...	...	13.9
4½	2½	4.29 Corporate Exec	2½	- ½	1.1	16.0
171½	58	28.70 Country Gdns	155½	...	5.7	...
120½	88	4.31 Cntry Gdns Pf	117½	...	...	...
109	22½	18.08 Crest Intl	22½	...	...	6.2
345	198	4.08 Crown Eye	255	+ 20	6.1	...
63	17	10.70 Crown Products	23	- 2½	...	14.8
577½	152	53.70 DDS Management	667½	- 5	2.7	...
36	19½	0.94 Dalkeith Invs	19½	...	...	...

1996/97 High	Low	Mkt cap (million)	Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
90½	60½	4.90 David Glass	90½	+ ½	6.9	10.4
140½	120½	4.90 Dean Til Dust	139½	- ½	...	10.8
2650	860	142.40 Dawson Hldgs	2660	...	2.0	19.3
17	10½	5.91 Dean Corp	15	+ 1	1.7	13.3
174½	155½	10.80 Deep Sea Leisure	172½	...	...	23.1
5	2½	4.20 Dentsweder	3¼	...	...	21.5
460	305	56.80 Dicom	447½	- 7½	0.2	20.1
111	78	14.80 Digital Ammtn	100½	...	...	...
87½	50½	12.30 Dimtek	65½	+ 1	...	15.9
4½	2½	2.49 Dings of Bath	3¼	...	...	...
137	38½	8.70 Easynet	60	+ 2½	...	...
445	148	86.90 Elec Retail Sys	422½	+ 37½	...	...
200	33½	38.50 Electrophoretics	58½	+ 10	...	...
116	9¼	3.26 Epic Multimedia	14	+ 3	...	...
55	55	14.20 Epicom Nshrks	55	...	...	...
316	190	7.89 Eurasia Mining	210	+ 10	...	...
220	120	13.62 Euro Sales Fin	125	...	...	...
475	118	18.40 Eve Group	187½	+ 1½	1.1	22.3
65½	41	8.51 Fairtale	335	...	0.8	12.3
191½	102½	3.28 Fayewood	82½	...	...	...
77½	52½	63.00 Fibernet	169½	- 15	3.6	6.9
265	75	2.62 Fieldens	52½	...	...	6.9
183	8½	5.54 Finl Pubns	265	...	...	...
152½	90½	2.94 First Infor	147½	...	...	57.8
255	188	40.60 Fitness First	225	...	1.4	...
343	253	5.78 Flamenics	285	+ 4	0.7	...
45	32½	8.58 Floral St	32½	...	...	...
193	113½	6.53 FNR Hldgs	142½	...	2.0	15.6
195½	79½	15.10 Formtec	105½	+ 3	...	16.3
51	14	8.26 Foxtrain Forest	51	+ 3	2.0	12.1
171½	93	195.90 Freepages	170½	...	...	...
130½	122½	10.20 Fortino Homes	187½	+ 9	...	59.9
206	171	14.50 Future Int Telep	17	...	...	9.9
28	13	16.40 GB Railways	52½	...	...	...
63	52½	6.10 Gabriel Trust	15½	...	...	...
15½	8¼	16.38 Gall Thomson Env	95	+ 2½	0.4	8.6
109½	77½	44.40 Gander Hldgs	68½	- 2	...	...
113½	53½	82.70 Garland W&B	17½	+ 2	...	...
23½	12	68.50 Gen Int Media	10	+ 1	...	...
13½	11½	23.00 Gold Mines Sard	124½	+ 1	...	...
124½	114½	5.36 Gold Mns Sard Wts	9½	...	...	...
22	6	42.20 Gochawk Insca	14½	...	3.8	12.3
15½	13¼	2.99 Greenhills	145	...	...	...
150	145	1.72 Greenvace Ltd	315	- 15	...	...
330	169	32.70 Guiton	7¼	- ¼	...	...
41	7	35.20 HIT Entertain	167	...	...	...
175	150	2.78 Hanson	89½	- 1	4.9	9.3
71½	53	12.30 Hardy Underdg	300	+ 4	2.8	...
300	155	3.07 Hat Pln	270	+ 4	3.2	...
270	180	8.78 Hawtree	125	- 10	...	18.3
140	48	10.90 Hawtree A	125	+ 5	2.8	...
175	67½	4.12 Hercules Prop	112	...	...	...
138	115	11.10 Highmass Sys	75	...	1.4	...
90	65	150.20 Hiscox	167½	- 2	1.3	49.3
119½	104½	1.16 Hurlingham	75½	- 2	...	...
297	136	7.23 Hydro-Dynamic	65½	...	...	...
96	65	24.20 IES	120	...	...	...
116	55½	19.30 Ind Batt Health	143	...	...	...
150	105	8.60 Indpt Energy	52½	...	...	54.1
150	143	21.40 Indpt Radio	75	- 1½	...	...
88	42½	27.50 Infobank Intl	58½	- 3	...	...
86	63	10.20 Inner Workings	98½	...	...	...
72½	42½	16.40 Intelligent Env	822½	...	2.5	15.4
177	97½	16.40 Internet Tech	157½	- 20	...	...
852½	503	32.60 Interoute Tele	151½	+ 9	...	...
179½	108	34.50 Intl Greetings	64½	...	2.6	10.6
155½	122½	38.60 IOC Intl	335	...	...	23.0
103	62½	13.40 Jardinerie Int				
335	280	2.63 Jasmin				
		24.70 Jennings Bros				

1996/97 High	Low	Mkt cap (million)	Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4	3¼	5.53 J Lewis Hlord	4	...	...	21.4
74¼	48½	9.94 Jordec	61½	...	...	...
5½	2	4.61 Just Group	3	...	...	...
3	1	0.12 Just Group Wts	1	...	...	...
125	82½	48.40 KS Biomedix	115	+ 7	...	...
52½	47½	5.69 Kara River	49½	...	...	...
160	100½	36.00 La Senza	107½	- 5	4.3	...
180	139	23.70 Lancashire En	130	- 10	2.5	18.3
385	210	21.80 Lawrence	355	- 25	2.7	9.9
3750	2550	60.70 Lawrie Group	3250	...	5.9	14.9
358	255	58.70 Le Riches Stirs	354	- 3½	...	...
17	12	0.65 Life Numbers	13	...	...	...
9	2	0.13 Life Numbrs Wts	4	...	...	...
535	425	10.70 Loades	535	...	0.2	50.7
105½	65	28.30 Lolfos Road	78½	- 5	2.7	8.9
19½	11¼	3.58 Lon & Edin Pubt	85	...	...	42.8
95	85	0.86 London Asia Pc	70	...	...	...
70	55	1.75 London Town	420	...	1.1	...
420	192½	71.80 Lorien Grp	2¼	- ¼	...	28.8
4¼	2¼	3.89 Lotterybing	0¼	- ¼	...	...
1¼	0¼	0.13 Lotterybing Wts	58	...	3.6	10.7
135	55	7.02 MMS Petroleum	170	...	...	...
315	147½	30.90 MTL Inst	20	- ½	...	10.8
160	117½	9.12 Magnum Power	248½	- 27	8.9	36.3
290½	187½	31.70 Majestic Wine	19	+ 3	2.1	12.1
25	9½	11.40 Manx & O'seas	105	...	6.9	...
125	105	2.40 Matrix Hithcare	11	+ ¼	2.3	50.5
124	104	3.96 Mears Group	90	...	...	...
117	88½	52.50 Megatomedia	83½	...	4.8	12.4
104	79	0.92 Megatomedia Wts	67½	...	...	...
113	67½	4.71 MeMed	51½	+ 6	...	...
475	222½	31.20 Memory Corp	11	...	...	...
55	10½	7.35 Meteor Tech	10	...	...	...
43	18	0.19 Meteor Tech Wts	24	...	...	...
25	8½	5.88 Metrodome	350	...	2.1	...
93½	82½	4.97 Mondas	90	- 5	...	7.9
156	65½	26.60 Mooropay	197½	- 7	0.5	30.9
200	147½	6.81 Moorlandshel	20	...	...	39.7
215	159½	39.20 Mulberry Group	19	...	...	...
89	53	5.77 MultiMedia	70½	- 5	1.8	31.2
19	17	1.40 NECA	265	...	4.3	13.5
72½	53	2.03 NRP	200	...	3.3	8.2
340	265	20.10 NWF Grp	300	...	...	10.8
210	175	14.10 Nash (Wm)	59½	...	...	...
388	300	7.70 Natl Clark	220½	- 12	0.2	31.8
82½	45½	8.32 Netcall	79½	- 2	...	47.7
242	118	71.90 Network Tech	40½	- 2	...	...
89½	63	1.46 Nothomes	7½	...	...	...
76	30½	4.64 Nthn Petim	114	- 1½	4.1	25.6
8	7½	0.12 Nthn Petim Wts	220	- 16½	0.8	68.1
119½	110½	45.20 Nursing Homes	130	...	1.1	19.7
239½	85½	39.00 Old English Pub	8½	+ 1½	...	...
136	84	15.40 Omnicare	75½	- 7	...	...
75	6½	2.09 Omnimedia	102½	...	...	...
102½	79½	3.02 On Line	72½	...	...	...
72½	42½	33.40 Oxford Biomedica	123	...	...	...
123	66	19.10 Loox	3¼	1	...	...
3¼	1	32.70 Pacific Media	220	...	4.5	16.0
220	174	24.50 Pan Andean Res	140½	...	...	...
140½	180	5.26 Park Ests(Liv)	22½	- 1	...	...
220	8½	8.30 Pembertons	51½	- 1	...	...
25	47½	7.98 Personal Ns Co	120	- 10	...	...
106	100	45.20 Philippine Bd	57½	- 2	...	16.1
337½	52½	12.80 Pilat Tech	123½	...	...	...
70½	107	24.70 Polysesc Pharms	2¼	...	...	...
184	1¼	6.01 Perdum Foods	1½	...	...	...
4	2	0.33 Perdum Fds Wts	550	+ 5	...	...
600	400	10.90 Preston Nth E	102½	...	...	...
185	100½	16.40 Primary Hlth Pr	395	...	...	...
590	151	86.10 Prism Rail				

1996/97 High	Low	Mkt cap (million)	Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1225	379	247.00 Ramco Egy	1205	+110	0.1	...
82½	32	8.28 Raphael Zm	77½	...	3.2	8.8
117½	94½	18.90 Recycling Servs	116½	+ 11½	3.4	...
140	43	8.73 Reflec	115	- 6½	...	5.2
6	4¼	1.51 Revelation Plc	5½	...	...	...
27	15	16.50 Rezemin Insca	25	- 2	2.9	18.9
99½	68	4.19 Romtec	88½	...	...	...
4½	2	2.18 Rushmere Wynne	2	...	...	...
2¼	0¾	0.07 Rush Wyn Wts	0¾	...	...	...
1¾	0¾	17.90 SDL Ent	153½	...	...	...
165	151	3.19 SGS Satellite	31	...	...	...
126	31	7.34 SEA Multimedia	32½	...	...	...
75	32½	6.96 Sanbury Music	72½	...	6.9	8.5
72½	62½	0.63 Scotswood Inds	9	...	2.0	20.7
31	5½	7.29 Scott Prebord	57½	...	...	...
57½	23	13.40 Scott Prds	42½	...	4.6	16.9
68	36	16.80 Scrutions	350	...	...	...
350	270	14.10 Selector	72	...	...	...
76	64	1.40 Self Sealing	25½	...	3.2	12.9
157½	132½	7.57 Shaftsene	157½	...	5.8	11.1
118	69½	4.85 Shellton (M)	91½	+ 12	...	...
233½	164	26.10 Sinclair Montrs	231½	- 2	1.4	30.0
5	2¼	8.76 Sitx Bio Serv	4¼	...	...	...
3	1	0.29 Sitx Bio Wts	1½	...	...	...
3¼	2¼	15.50 Snakeboard	2¼	- ¼	4.2	13.7
91	82½	5.16 Solid State Sp	82½	- 2	3.1	...
43	27	3.38 Soundtracs	33½	...	3.1	30.1
706½	520	170.40 Southern News	705½	+ 16½	3.5	15.6
79½	50	12.90 Southern Vectis	67½	...	...	70.0
292½	173½	27.80 Stafware	240	- 8½	...	...
835	255	122.50 Stamford Rook	535	+ 35	...	...
201	75	11.10 Stantor	157½	+ 10	...	...
496	122	49.10 Surrey Fr Inns	443	- 20½	0.7	30.7
140	125	14.00 Sutton Harbour	140	...	1.1	28.0
135	17½	2.61 Syst Integ Rsch	19½	...	...	...
34½	6	4.01 TDS Circuits	19	...	...	23.4
138	75½	12.20 Theo Fennell	75½	...	0.7	19.4
15	7¼	18.00 Thomas Potts	10	...	...	...
56	25½	2.02 Tom Hoskins	26½	...	...	...
915	375	26.70 TRACKER Netwk	905	...	...	...
185	85	25.40 Tradepoint Fcl	118	+ 3	3.7	12.0
180	160	5.10 Trinity Care	167	...	...	...
170	165	Trinity Care Pf	170	...	...	...
79½	33½	181.40 Trocadero	38½	+ 1	1.9	33.3
297½	143	39.20 UNO	280	- 7½	...	18.4
42	40	3.65 Univent	40	...	2.7	...
458	357½	6.63 Utd Auctions	372½	+ 15	3.7	13.8
280	147½	18.10 VDC	175	+ ½	1.1	19.6
32½	13½	53.30 Versaflex Grp	21½	...	...	...
62	51	97.60 Victory Corp	51½	- 5	...	...
650	130	4.42 Viewtron	147½	...	...	...
428	232	6.44 Voss Net	240	...	...	19.5
76	46	19.10 Waterfall	74	- 1½	...	7.9
27	13	5.09 Watermark	27	...	...	...
26	7	8.63 Wedderburn Secs	24	- ¼	...	...
10½	1¼	0.33 Wedd Secs Wts	9½	- 1	2.7	10.1
8¼	6	7.90 Weeks Group	8	...	...	...
130	90	3.85 West 175 Entm	100	...	...	...
£280	£180	14.60 West Brom	£200	+1000	...	13.5
19	12	6.56 Western Selecm	12½	...	...	...
5	3½	0.28 Western Sel Wts	4½	...	...	...
94½	26	8.20 Westmount Engy	75½	- 7	...	...
95	85½	3.53 Whitecross	85½	- 2	1.4	26.3
245	135½	35.00 Whitbrd Chelsea	220½	- 16	...	...
75	45½	8.14 W'chester M Mid	70	+ 7½	4.8	17.2
145	100	3.79 Wynnstay Props	120	...	...	...
13½	9	5.75 Xavier Comp	11	...	...	...
179½	137½	6.93 Yeoman	137½	...	3.7	12.0
340	170	26.70 Zargo	280	...	...	...
24½	24½	5.84 Zicar Mining	24½	...	...	...



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CBI condemns Lang's strategy to curb strikes

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE Confederation of British Industry has delivered its strongest criticism yet of government proposals for legislation to curb strikes, describing them as unworkable.

The CBI has already angered ministers by declaring its opposition to the Government green paper *Industrial Action and Trade Unions*.

However, the CBI has now taken its criticisms further in a detailed response to the green paper, which has been sent to the minister responsible, Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade. The CBI's unpublished document, which has been seen by *The Times*, rejects Mr Lang's central proposal, which would remove the right to immunity from civil action from unions organising industrial action that would have "disproportionate" or excessive effects.

Ministers see this as a means of resolving legal problems about legislating on strikes in essential services. Although the CBI makes clear that it shares the Government's concern about such disputes, it says that the Government proposal is "unwieldy and unworkable" and may well result in greater uncertainty rather than resolving conflict.

Under the Government's plan, the courts would decide what constituted disproportionate action, but the CBI attacks what it calls "inherent difficulties" in this approach, maintaining that it will be "impractical" to suppose that a court could adjudicate on such an issue.

Mr Lang's green paper accepts that its proposed approach would lead initially to some uncertainty, but it claims that this would decline as the courts built up case law. The CBI rejects this as an "untenable position", since it would leave the outcomes of disputes to be decided by litigation, which CBI leaders say would be "highly undesirable".

Going to the courts for a decision in disputes in this manner, with this degree of uncertainty, would be "wasteful of everyone's time and resources", the CBI says, with none of the moves suggested by the Government appearing to be "conducive to resolving disputes themselves".

Mr Lang is also proposing that ballots before strikes should require the approval of all employees entitled to vote, rather than a straight majority of those voting. The CBI says that this does "not appear to be equitable" because it would mean laying down new rules for strikes "which do not apply more generally".

Ministers also want to increase the period of notice required to be given before a strike starts from seven days to 14 days, but the CBI says that such an extension "may have the adverse effects of increasing unofficial action".

Aborigines block RTZ mine sale

From Rachel Bridge in Sydney

Plans by RTZ, the mining company, to sell its Century Zinc mine in northern Australia to Pasminco, the mining group, for A$345 million (£172 million) have been put into jeopardy with the refusal of Aboriginal groups to allow the development to proceed.

The sale of Century Zinc was agreed in principle in January but is conditional on RTZ-CRA being able to secure mining leases for the site from the Queensland goverment, which can only be granted once agreement with local Aborigines has been reached.

The rejection is a major blow for RTZ, which has spent 18 months negotiating a A$60 million social and economic compensation package with Aborigines in return for their backing for the mine. The case will now go to formal arbitration before the Native Title Tribunal, where a panel will take up to six months to decide whether to allow the mine to go ahead.

Greg Walker, a spokesman for RTZ said yesterday: "Pasminco is not interested in buying a promise, it wants a project.

"It was a condition of the sale that Century Zinc is able to provide valid and secure titles for the mine, and the State Government is unable to issue the mine leases until the Native Title tribunal is completed."

The Century Zinc saga has strengthened calls within Australia for a complete overhaul of the current legal system in the face of continuing confusion about whether leases granted to miners and farmers override Aboriginal rights to the land.



Trekking to market: Chris Flockhart, left, technical director, and Guy Fowler, chief executive

Tricorder seeks Ofex funds

THE world's first hand-held 3D digital scanner is coming to the market via the flotation of Tricorder Technology (Fraser Nelson writes). The company, which holds an international patent, hopes to raise £3 million through an offer for subscription on the Ofex market.

Its device, the Tricorder, is named after the 3D scanner from the original *Star Trek* TV series. It can scan images ranging from buildings to insects and is aimed at the market for 3D visuals in computer games and Internet Web sites.

Chris Flockhart, technical director, said: "It would considerably reduce the cost of 3D scanning as existing scanners use a lot of mechanical parts whereas our technology is based in silicone chips." The company is raising the money in an attempt to sell the scanner on the mass market. It estimates that 800,000 companies would be interested in buying it.

Dr Guy Fowler, chief executive, has recruited some leading industrialists. Dr Robert Hawley, chief executive of British Energy, and John Forrest, a director of News Digital Media, are joining the board.

Davies urges consolidated approach to regulation

By A Correspondent

HOWARD DAVIES, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, has called for a more consolidated approach to the regulation of financial institutions.

In a speech to the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's financial markets conference on Saturday he said this was needed more than ever as international financial firms are tending to centralise their internal controls.

Mr Davies said the concept of a "lead regulator" or "co-ordinating supervisor" is being widely discussed and he raised several possibilities for tasks that the role could include:

☐ Quantitative and qualitative assessment of international financial groups as a whole.

☐ Taking the primary role in management of emergencies.

☐ Acting to ease the exchange of information between different regulators.

☐ Looking in the long term at how to improve co-ordiriation of supervisors' efforts.

"The intention is that each host authority should be able to carry out these responsibilities more effectively by relying to some extent on the work of others," Mr Davies said.

He noted that enthusiasm for the idea in the US has been muted, although commercial banks are already subject to consolidated supervision.

"More problematic is the position of the US investment banking groups who, uniquely among the banking and securities industries in major countries, are not subject to ... consolidated supervision."

Mr Davies noted that the debate on how these groups should be regulated tends to be regarded as largely an internal matter, adding that their international reach should make the issue one of great interest and concern to the international financial community.

In his speech, Mr Davies reiterated the Bank's view that supervision of British banks should be kept separate and carried out by the body that maintains the stability of the financial system — the Bank of England. Mr Davies said the Bank favours a Holy Trinity rather than a Twin Peaks approach, the Trinity being regulators for financial services, banking and insurance.

End urged to savings tax perks

By Tom Tugendhat

DEMOS, the left-leaning think-tank, wants the abolition of the tax incentives on savings endorsed by both the Government and the Labour Party.

John Major has been one of the main supporters of the tax incentive scheme, introducing the Tessa while at Number 11.

In a report published today, Demos argues that private pension plans, Tessas and Peps are tax breaks for the middle classes, which move savings from one form to another without encouraging extra thrift at the cost of £10 billion to the Exchequer.

Rather than opting into occupational pensions, employees should have to opt out, starting a culture of saving.



Make more than you earn — or lose your mortgage

Fraser Nelson experiences the highs and lows of trading the virtual way

KIPPA MATTHEWS



Fraser Nelson, right, is taught how to trade by Sarah Bates and Stephen Dagleish

"I want you to feel sick. I want you to have that feeling deep in your stomach you can only get when you are handling millions of pounds and you know that you are losing control."

Sarah Bates, managing director of Invesco's closed-end funds, the investment house, wanted me to know how it felt to be a dealer. With a dozen other journalists who seldom give a second thought to the sweat behind the market prices, we were being initiated into the world of the market-maker via a home-made virtual dealing room.

Invesco had done its utmost to create reality. Tabloids had been scattered across one of its sanitised meeting rooms, and the walls had been adorned with topless women and fully clad footballers. We each had a PC, and were given lots of virtual money to try our hand at making millions.

It came complete with pep-talk from an instructor.

"Good morning. My name is Stephen Dagleish. You may have seen me recently on a BBC2 programme . . ."

"*Crimewatch*?" offered a voice from the back, to raucous laughter. "*Naked City*," he corrected. "This morning, we will be dealing in shares in the country's biggest commodity — UK plc. Or, as it is better known, sterling. It may be called currency but you might as well call it a share."

The rules: We had lots of dollars with which to buy lots of pounds and we were to adopt dealers' language. An offer to buy pounds at $1.6397 and sell at $1.6402 is called 97/02. The difference between the two is called a "spread", and poor traders create something called a "barn door" — a spread so large that a truck can apparently be driven through it.

A rate of $1.6390 is called "90 figure" because traders can pronounce "figure" slightly more quickly than they can "00". Lastly, no self-respecting dealer deals in denominations of less than £5 million. Buy cheap, sell dear, make millions. Simple.

We were split into pairs, and I found myself next to a reporter from the *Institutional Investor*. We kicked off buying £5 million from Citibank at a rate of $1.6397. Quiet market, no problem. Buy another £15 million at the same rate. Then pow! — SBC Warburg calls up with £10 million to buy at $1.6402 or sell at $1.6398 (known in the trade as 97/04.) Were they buyers or sellers? They bought. Result.

As the money rolled in, the normally disaffected journalists began to liven up and employ some of the newfound language of the trading floor.

My dealing partner was already narrowing his eyes at the screen and muttering things like, "64 figure! Ooh, baby, we'll have you."

When our virtual market closed for lunch, we had chalked up some £77,000 in profit. It was some thought — we had earned more than our combined annual salaries in less than an hour. Currency dealing, it seemed, was the definitive quick buck.

Everyone returned from lunch looking quite cheerful. "That was straightforward," our instructor told us. "The market was not moving. This time, we're going to spice things up with a few news items. Imagine the world in four months' time . . ."

Round Two saw us dropped in a virtual June 1997. The first news item that lit up the screens was an election victory for the Conservatives. "The pound and the gilt market roared Major from the hustings," read the bulletin. To celebrate, we bought around 20 million of them.

Big mistake. Five minutes later, we had lost every penny of the £77,000 so easily picked up in the first half. Virtual Ford workers at Dagenham had rather unhelpfully gone on a strike, prompting a further drop in the pound. By this time, we had been tricked into buying — or being "long" on — £75 million, and were watching its value plunge.

"Whadya think?" asked the *Institutional Investor* reporter, whose finger had now stopped twitching on the mouse. "Dunno," I replied, "It's bound to bounce back. Market jitters." I wasn't convincing, he kept selling, and the pound dropped to $1.6320.

As time ticked away, I came up with the idea of presenting the market with a high selling price and a low buying price, so someone would relieve us of our unwanted millions. This, it seemed, was not cricket.

"Uh uh," warned the instructor. "If you show a two-way price with a one-way intent, you lose your reputation and no-one will come back to you. If you're going to be a professional player, you must never show whether you are a buyer or a seller."

So, we stuck with a "tight spread" and continued to lose money until the pound hit $1.6424. Then things were looking up. The virtual newswire had gone quiet — the top story was England's line-up for the Iceland match and the rates were stabilising. My co-trader then turned from bear to bull. "Time to buy like crazy," he said. I nodded supportively, and we snapped up £30 million. Another big mistake. "George Soros has warned that sterling will once again become the sick currency of Europe," read the virtual headline. Pound plunges, we despair, and sell enough to just miss out on minor resurgence. We jump back in to the market just seconds before Kenneth Clarke's virtual resignation is flashed on the screens. Groans all round.

"When sterling goes up a point there are cheers, when it goes down ten points it is ignored," observed our instructor. "I don't need to ask how we are all doing." He came over to our computer, which was by now showing Leesonesque losses. "Still buying?," he asked. "In a falling market?"

"It's going to rebound," I explained, sternly.

He shrugs. "Up to you guys — prop up the home currency if you want."

The pound never did mount a comeback. After some suspiciously astute trading from my co-trader, we ended up losing a mere £300,000. Some thought — we had lost more than our combined mortgages in less than an hour.

It could have been worse. Someone in the back row was admitting to losses of more than £500,000. Others looked as if they had been trading away their pensions. Our instructor was smiling away. "See?" he said. "You can never predict the markets."

For the brave, Mr Dagleish's virtual trading experience is available by calling 0171-488 1637.

Disney 'fat cats' face shareholder protest after $70m payoff

A CLAMPDOWN on American fat cats is set to follow a shareholder protest tomorrow about the size of the pay package for Michael Eisner, chairman of Walt Disney, and of other senior executives, due to take place at the company's annual meeting.

Progressive Asset Management, a Californian brokerage firm, has filed a resolution calling for a cap on future severance packages and salaries for top executives. In a separate move, other leading institutional shareholders such as the California Public Employees Retirement System, the largest pension fund in the US, are expected to withhold their support for four executives who come up for re-election at the meeting as a sign of protest over pay packages. CalPers has a policy of active intervention in companies over issues of corporate governance.

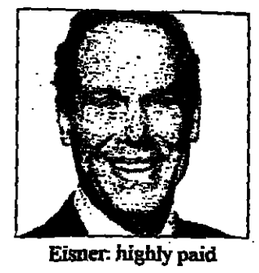
The protest was fuelled by the $70 million payoff for Michael Ovitz who recently left his job as Mr Eisner's deputy after only a year at Disney.

Mr Eisner himself is one of the highest-paid executives in the US, garnering several hundred million dollars in pay, bonuses and share options during his ten years as head of Disney. CalPers is also considering joining a lawsuit brought against Disney by angry shareholders protesting at the size of Mr Ovitz's deal. "There will be a lot of anger vented at the meeting", said Conrad MacKerron, director of social research at PAM. "We want to send a message to Disney to preserve its good name." The protest is part of the growing disquiet in US business at the soaring levels of top executives' pay, which have far outstripped those of other workers in the past three years.

PAM is supported by shareholders who include the United Methodist Church, and by the Communications Workers of America, the main union at the ABC television network that Disney purchased last year. They are also objecting to low level of wages that they claim Disney pays to contract workers in developing countries such as Haiti. Many workers receive only 30 cents an hour, a third of what many other US companies pay. Mr MacKerron said.

"The huge disparity between the contract workers and the executives is unacceptable", he said.

PAM and its backers expect to get support from the 6 per cent of shareholders required to bring up the same issue at next year's meeting. Refusal to support the four directors coming up for re-election, however, is expected to extend to as many as 20 per cent of shareholders. "That would certainly be seen as an anti-Ovitz vote," said Mr Mackerron.



Eisner: highly paid

Engineers tone down stance on minimum wage law

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LEADERS of Britain's engineering industry are to make a significant about-turn over Labour's plans for a national minimum wage by pragmatically advising engineering companies on how best to deal with its introduction.

The move by the Engineering Employers' Federation stops short of abandoning opposition to a minimum wage, but will be seen by Labour as indicating industry's readiness, if necessary, to implement minimum pay and as a sign of business's belief of at least the strong possibility of Labour winning the coming election.

Previously, the EEF was completely opposed to Labour's plans to put a statutory floor under wages, but EEF leaders have now shifted to a more practical approach.

A similar shift by the EEF over the introduction in Britain of European-style works councils led to Conservative claims that such practical advice on operation of these consultative bodies was in effect giving support to them by abandoning opposition.

An unpublished EEF policy paper on minimum pay, seen by *The Times*, makes clear that engineering companies still do not support it, because of what they see as its inflationary effect on the economy, which they say is likely to lead to employee pressure for higher pay deals.

They also warn of effects increasing the industry's costs, including pressure for maintenance of pay differentials, both in the industry and between engineering and other sectors, and the potential for increased costs by subcontractors working for engineering firms, many of whose employees, unlike engineering workers in the main, would be likely to be directly affected by a minimum pay law.

One engineering industry leader said: "Our position on the minimum wage is clarified. We are still arguing against it. But we are moving to a practical position."

EEF leaders have now requested involvement in Labour's planned Low Pay Commission, which, if the party forms a Government, would advise it a minimum pay level.

The EEF paper also makes suggestions to try to ensure that any implementation of minimum pay is "handled sensitively" and to minimise potential adverse effects. These include setting it at an unspecified "low" level, giving employers time to implement it and exempting, as Labour intends, young people in training leading to recognised qualifications.



Oxford Street has been showing the sort of rental growth not seen since the late-1980s and which is expected to spread to the regions by the summer

Record rents in Oxford Street signal road to retail boom

BY JASON NISSÉ

THREE record lettings for stores in Oxford Street, London's leading shopping thoroughfare, have signalled a retail property boom outstripping that of the late-1980s.

Since Christmas record rents have been set in landmark deals along Oxford Street and property experts say the boom will hit the regions by the summer.

The lettings confirm the recovery in retailing after the poor Christmas that was shown in last week's January retail sales figures. It also brings the spectre of the economy overheating. This was reinforced yesterday when Barclays, the high street bank, said it expected interest rates to rise to 7.5 per cent by the end of the year.

The first deal was for a 2,575 sq ft store at 248 Oxford Street which was let to Allsports, the leisure clothing retailer, for £380,000 a year. Ten other retailers bid for the site and it is believed that Allsports was not the highest offer.

The effective rent per square foot was a record, beating the all-time high for Oxford Street set in 1989, and property experts wondered whether it was a one-off.

However two more deals have confirmed the boom. The lease on the 10,000 sq ft store at 187-195, currently occupied by Next, was sold at a premium of £1.5 million. The current rent is £515,000 a year and the next rent review is not until 2001, so the effective rent is more than £900,000 a year. This site is on a less attractive part of the street than 248.

Another site of a similar size at 175-179 was also let out last week. Though the owners, Liverpool Victoria Assurance, would not reveal the rental, it is understood that it was around £900,000 a year, more than twice the previous rent level which was set in 1992.

Chris Phillips, retail partner at Healey & Baker, the surveyors, said that Oxford Street was showing the sort of rental growth that had not been seen since the late-1980s.

Mr Phillips is predicting a countrywide retail property boom this year. "What we see in Oxford Street will be seen in the major cities within six months," he said.

The property boom of the 1980s led a number of leading retailers to speculate in property, often with disastrous results. One of them, Burton, has recently bought out the lease of its head office at Oxford Circus and is looking to let out the upper floors for retailing. One of the interested parties is said to be Nike, the sports clothing manufacturer, which wants to set up a London superstore.

IPD urges publication of personnel strategies

BY CHRIS AYRES

COMPANIES should include detailed accounts of their employment practices in annual reports, the Institute of Personnel and Development will today tell the Hampel Committee on Corporate Governance.

The IPD says investors rarely understand the people management strategies of the companies they invest in, and is urging the committee to change the way that company performance is measured.

The committee, led by Sir Ronald Hampel, the chairman of ICI, was created last year to recommend ways in which companies can be managed more effectively in the light of the Greenbury and Cadbury reports. It will produce a report later this year.

The IPD will tell the committee that companies should produce social reports supported by a comparison of the company's performance with its people management policy.

Geoff Armstrong, IPD director-general, said: "Despite overwelming evidence demonstrating the link between good people management and organisational success, investors still base their decisions almost exclusively on the perceived financial performance and prospects of organisations.

"They do not recognise that their lack of knowledge about the employment strategies of these businesses represents a huge gap in their understanding." Mr Armstrong said the City had an indirect influence over the people management strategies of companies, and he used it as a further reason for a wider discussion on employment issues.

He said: "Pressure to increase earnings per share may mean that managers are tempted to focus too much on squeezing labour costs.

"An innovative, dynamic workforce, which has taken years to build, can be destroyed by the decision of the moment to satisfy short-sighted pressures from investors."

Halifax float set to boost share deals

THE London Stock Exchange could face a huge increase in transactions later this year if proposals for the flotation of the Halifax Building Society are voted through today (Caroline Merrell writes).

The Halifax expects its £10 billion float to generate 100,000 transactions a day on the Stock Exchange immediately afterwards, swelling the 60,000 transactions executed daily by the Exchange. Share deals are also likely to increase because of the Alliance & Leicester float just before the Halifax listing.

The Halifax vote will take place today in Sheffield.

Mondex UK enlists GiroVend help by acquiring 10% stake

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

MONDEX UK, the electronic smartcard company, has acquired a 10 per cent stake in GiroVend Cashless Systems, the supplier of cashless payment systems for in-house catering and vending machines.

The deal, which is backed by a co-operation agreement, should help Mondex — which has been jointly developed by NatWest, Midland and BT as a new form of cashless payment — to find markets for its multi-purpose cards. The cards can be used as cash cards to access bank accounts, to pay at vending machines and stores and also to give access to restricted areas and computer systems.

Ron Clark, chief executive of Mondex UK, said: "GiroVend is an undoubted market leader in this field." GiroVend is due to float next month. The listing will value the company at around £25 million.

Mondex and GiroVend intend to target universities, they said. Mondex's smartcards have been tested in Swindon and in pilot schemes at the Universities of York and Exeter.

MasterCard International's acquisition of 51 per cent of Mondex was also completed yesterday, the companies said. This makes London-based Mondex International a subsidiary of the American credit card giant.

Michael Keegan, chief executive of Mondex International, said: "We are delighted that Mondex has become part of the MasterCard family and believe that MasterCard will enhance Mondex's technical leadership, speed up worldwide acceptance of Mondex and recruit additional members and retailers worldwide."

The founders of Mondex, which will still have its headquarters in London, will retain a 49 per cent stake.

Among the organisations signed up to use Mondex are Royal Bank of Canada, Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, Wells Fargo, AT&T, Chase Manhattan and ten major banks in Australasia.

Health cover from Tesco and Safeway

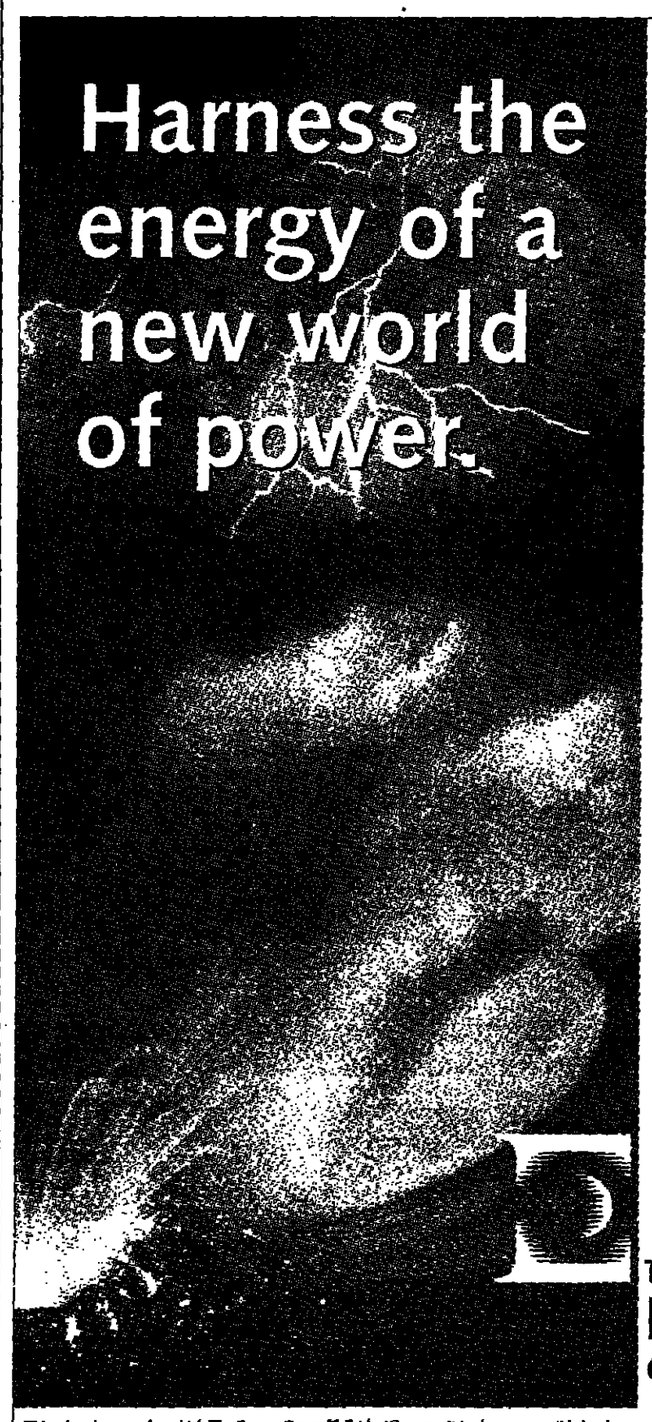
BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SAFEWAY and Tesco, the supermarket groups, are to open a new front in the battle for loyalty by offering health insurance to their customers.

Safeway is expected to offer medical insurance cover from Norwich Union Healthcare, which already supplies policies to Abbey National, Safeway's banking partner.

Tesco is considering a free insurance scheme for holders of its Clubcard Plus. Under the scheme, stores would pay for groceries if the customer were made redundant or became too ill to work. Tesco may extend the scheme to include health insurance, for which cardholders would pay extra. It is believed to be discussing the move with various health insurance providers.

The company, which is moving into banking in partnership with the Royal Bank of Scotland, is believed to be discussing the free grocery insurance scheme with Lloyd's underwriters. Tesco's banking enterprise will begin with a credit card to be launched this summer.



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TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.18	2.02
Austria Sch	20.08	18.58
Belgium Fr	58.84	54.64
Canada $	2.303	2.143
Cyprus Cyp£	0.846	0.791
Denmark Kr	10.93	10.13
Finland Mkk	8.70	8.05
France Fr	9.57	8.92
Germany Dm	2.87	2.66
Greece Dr	444	418
Hong Kong $	13.13	12.13
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.08	1.00
Israel Shk	5.69	5.04
Italy Lira	2813	2638
Japan Yen	212.20	196.20
Malta	0.655	0.600
Netherlds Gld	3.197	2.967
New Zealand $	2.47	2.25
Norway Kr	11.44	10.64
Portugal Esc	283.50	265.00
S Africa Rd	7.63	7.03
Spain Pta	241.00	224.00
Sweden Kr	12.59	11.79
Switzerland Fr	2.50	2.32
Turkey Lira	203400	189400
USA $	1.712	1.582

Rates for small denomination bank notes supplied by Barclays Bank. Other rates apply to traveller's cheques.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6191 (-0.0022)
German mark
2.7253 (-0.0095)
Exchange Index
97.2 (-0.5)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2864.5 (+6.3)
FTSE 100
4336.8 (-4.2)
New York Dow Jones
6931.62 (-57.34)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
19034.54 (+312.54)

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 38

ORF
(b) A virus disease of sheep, cattle, and goats, characterised by a secondary infection with the bacillus *Fusiformis necrophorus*, which causes ulcers and scabs in and around the mouth and on the feet or other parts of the body. Also called scabby mouth, contagious ecthyma, or contagious pustular dermatitis. Variant of the dialect *hurf*, probably from the Old Norse *hrufa* crust or scab on a boil. "The flock is then dipped, vaccinated against orf and allowed to scavenge."

RHAGES
(a) The name of a city (now Rayy in Iran, near Tehran), used attributively to designate a type of pottery made there from the 11th to the 13th centuries, characterised by polychrome enamelling. "The designs on this Rhages enamelled ware are pencilled with miniature-like fineness recalling the beautiful workmanship in the manuscript illuminations of the early 13th century."

PIZE-BALL
(c) A game similar to rounders in which the ball is hit with the flat of the hand. Perhaps from the obscure Middle Dutch game *pisen*. "Pize-ball, tig, and a great number of games involving running round the lamp-posts or in and out of the closet-areas are still popular."

ORIHON
(c) A book formed by folding a printed roll alternately backwards and forwards between the columns, and usually fastening it with cord down one side. From the Japanese *ori* a fold + *hon* a book. "Orihon, a manuscript roll on which the writing was done in columns running the short way of the paper with margins between each. The roll was then folded, the margins having the effect of a closed fan."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Bxc6 capturing a pawn and attacking the black rook, wins easily, as after 1 ... dxc5 2 a7 Qa8 3 Qd8+ Qxd8 4 Rxd8+ Ke7 5 Rxh8 and the a-pawn queens.

POLYGRAM FILM INTERNATIONAL



The success of *Fargo* helped PolyGram's film division to break even for the first time

POLYGRAM FILM INTERNATIONAL



Jude was produced by Revolution Films, a partner in the Double Negative consortium

Numbers start to add up for British film-makers

Alasdair Murray on how lottery funds may play a lead role in UK's big-screen revival

It's a familiar script; plucky British film-makers overcome adversity at home to make a series of films that look set to sweep the Oscars, leaving the expensive and hyped Hollywood productions in their wake. Cut to winning speeches and cast a Colin Welland lookalike to loudly proclaim to LA that the British are coming.

If this was a Hollywood production, the story would invariably conclude with a happy ending; the directors and producers triumphantly moving on to bigger and better things. But being a British production, expect a dose of realism as the film ends with the heros being forced to go cap in hand to sceptical bankers to fund their next productions.

The British film industry appears on the cusp of one of its periodic revivals. *The English Patient*, directed by Anthony Minghella, has secured 12 Oscar nominations. Other British films such as *Sweetness and Lies*, directed by Mike Leigh, and *Trainspotting* are also in the hunt for Oscar recognition, while *Fargo*, which has received seven nominations, was backed by Working Title, the UK production company.

The dog days of the 1980s when the collapse of Goldcrest, following the failure of its misguided epic *Revolution*, seemed to signal the death of the industry are now no more than a distant memory. Last year 127 films were made in the UK, compared with just ten in 1996. Total investment in film rose from less than £400 million in 1995 to more than £650 million.

PolyGram, Dutch-owned but based in the UK, revealed this month that its film division broke even for the first time in the second half of last year on the back of hits such as *Trainspotting* and *Fargo*. Meanwhile, Ridley and Tony Scott, the director brothers behind films such as *Bladerunner* and *Top Gun*, are preparing to float Shepperton studios on the stock market.

But the bare figures conceal the fact that a large proportion of these films were US-backed ventures taking advantage of the favourable exchange rate and British expertise. Mr Minghella was forced to fall back on financing from Miramax, owned by Disney, to film *The English Patient*. Blockbusters such as *Mission Impossible* and *101 Dalmations* were made in the UK, while the *Star Wars* "prequels" and *Lost In Space* are booked in for this year.

The British film industry — with the exception of PolyGram — still consists of small independents desperately scrabbling around to secure finance for individual projects. While television — Channel Four recently announced it would spend £100 million on film over the next four years — tries to fill the gap, the production companies struggle to raise finance from a distinctly lukewarm City. The British film industry remains desperately short of patrons.

Film-makers hope that lottery funds might work some magic and help to fill some of the funding gap. This Friday is the deadline for consortium bids for four lottery grants that will total up to £39 million over the next six years. The idea is to provide seed capital to help the consortiums to build up a portfolio of films and generate the profits necessary to set up a sales and distribution network.

The bidding will see some tough competition between the country's most succesful production houses. Mike Newell, responsible for *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, has teamed up with David Parfitt, who produced *The Madness of King George*. Summit Entertainment and Newmarket Corporation. Merchant Ivory, which has specialised in genre films such as *Howard's End*, is linking up with Guiness Mahon, one of the few City firms with film funding experience, Capitol Films and First Independent. Inevitably, Richard Branson has also entered the fray, joining up with award-winning director Ken Loach, Scala Films and Screba-Greenpoint.

The Double Negative consortium has brought together Working Title, which is owned by PolyGram, Revolution Films, which produced *Jude*, and The Jonescompany, responsible for producing *The Ususal Suspects*. Working Title has a serious track record, having produced around 20 films in the last five years, and has the advantage of financial backing from PolyGram. Most production companies are barely more than one man, a dog and a rented room. Working Title, however, inhabits plush offices on Oxford Street and employs an in-house team of lawyers, development staff and accountants.

The company is co-chaired by Eric Fellner and Tim Bevan, who founded Working Title in the 1980s to make low-budget hits such as *My Beautiful Launderette* and *Wish You Were Here*. Taken under PolyGram's wing in 1989, Working Title has moved on to making bigger-budgeted films with the $30 million production *The Borrowers* — based on the children's book — and *Bean*, starring Rowan Atkinson, set for release this year.

Mr Fellner and Mr Bevan have developed impeccable showbusiness contacts over this time. Mr Bevan is married to actress Joley Richardson, and the team has established a close relationship with American stars such as Joel and Ethan Cohen and Tim Robbins. This rapport has led to the unusual phenomenon of a British company producing American films such as *Fargo* and *Dead Man Walking*.

Mr Fellner believes that the lottery money can make a genuine difference. He says: "We will continue to concentrate on making films in the $10 million to $40 million bracket but the money will enable us to place our resources and distribution channel at the disposal of new talent."

The consortium aims to operate a "godfathering" system, where directors and producers can bring in their ideas and benefit from the experience and funding available from the three companies. The lottery money should be sufficient to make around two extra films a year.

For Mr Fellner one of the most genuinely exciting parts of the consortium is the possibility that it could build up sufficient scale to make a trade sale or even float. "We hope that in around six years we could sell or raise new investment," he says.

Andrew Eaton, co-founder of consortium partner Revolution Films, agrees: "If the franchises go to the right companies who can demonstrate their experience to the City, they should be able to float."

Mr Eaton started his career as script writer on the ill-fated *Revolution* and understands some of the City's reticence about investing in film. But he points to the booming cinema attendances, greater competition for films from television companies and a feeling that the industry has learnt from its mistakes.

"There is very little way that low budget films lose money," he says. "If you make three or four films, it only requires one to be a moderate hit to ensure a safe return." He believes that the industry has also learnt to market itself more professionally. The soundtrack of *Trainspotting*, for instance, took more money than the film itself in some countries.

The two conclude that the British film industry may now be able to complete its recovery. Mr Fellner says: "We will make money in the long run, providing the opportunities are there to make the films. Working Title spent $60 million on British movies last year and we do not see why this should change."

Mr Eaton agrees, but emphasies that there is no point in making films to a formula. "You must believe in the film first," he said. "*Four Weddings* and *The Crying Game* were distinctive British films but convinced international investors to have faith in their success."



Star turn: Double Negative's Rob Jones, left, Andrew Eaton, Michael Winterbottom, Eric Fellner and Tim Bevan

RADIO CHOICE

Reality behind classic fiction

The Monday Play: A House by the Sea. *Radio 4, 7.45pm.*

One of the strengths of this prime drama slot is its willingness to take risks, notably with writers who are new to the medium. Stuart Fortey has had two plays performed on stage but this is his first piece for radio. It is set at rehearsals for the premiere performance of Chekhov's *The Seagull*. As the rehearsals progress, it becomes clear that much of the play mirrors Chekhov's life. The starkest manifestation of this is when Chekhov is visited at the theatre by a former love, Sonya, who is revealed as the model for Masha in *The Seagull*. Ciaran Hinds plays Chekhov, Helena Bonham Carter is Olga and Sonya is played by Kate Buffery.

Voices of Sport. *Radio 5 Live, 7.35pm.*

This new series is about sports commentators and starts with a man whose later association with *This Is Your Life* gave him an undeserved public reputation as a somewhat sugary performer. In fact Eamonn Andrews was one of the finest boxing commentators in the history of radio, on either side of the Atlantic. His first boxing commentary, for Radio Eirann, had two remarkable features: Andrews was only 18 years old, and he was fighting on the same bill on which he was commenating. So here was a man who could talk you through a punch as if he had just thrown it. Among the voices of friends and colleagues in tonight's programme are Henry Cooper and Cliff Morgan.

Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Kevin Greening 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session 8.30 Andy Kershaw 10.30 Mary Ann Hobbs with live coverage of the Brit Awards 1.00am Claire Sturgess 4.00 Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Wake Up To Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 John Humphrys 1.30pm Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Chris Serle 7.00 Steve Wright at the Movies 7.30 Malcolm Laycock with Dance Band Days 8.30 Big Band Special 9.00 Humphrey Lyttelton: the Best of Jazz 10.00 Radio Days (5/6) 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Charles Nove 3.00 Steve Madden

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, includes 6.55 Racing Preview 9.00 The Magazine; with Diana Madill 12.00 Midday with Mair; includes at 12.35pm Moneycheck 2.05 Ruscoe on Five, includes at 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide, includes at 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra 7.35 Voices of Sport. Sea Choice 8.00 The Monday Match. Coverage of West Ham v Tottenham 10.00 News Talk, with Jeremy Vine 11.00 Night Extra with Lucy Thorpe 12.00am After Hours 2.00 Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr 7.00 Paul Rose 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Deeley 7.00 Moz Dee's Sportszone 10.00 James Whale 1.00am Mike Dickin

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT News on the hour. 5.30am Europe Today 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 Off the Shelf 7.30 The Vintage Chart Show 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 International Recital 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Anything Goes 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Off the Shelf 11.30 Omnibus 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Andy Kershaw 2.05 Outlook 2.30 John Peel 3.05 Sports Roundup 3.15 The Learning World 3.30 Omnibus 4.15 World Today 4.30 BBC English 4.45 Britain Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sport 6.30 Just a Minute 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Words of Faith 7.30 Multitrack 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Moments That Changed Our World 9.45 First on the Scene 10.30 World Today 10.45 Sport 11.10 Take Five 11.15 Record News 11.30 Multitrack 12.30am Global Concerns 12.45 Britain Today 1.30 Outlook 1.55 Words of Faith 2.30 Omnibus 3.15 Sport 3.30 Meridian Feature 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Read 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto. Haydn (Horn Concerto in D major) 3.00 Jamie Crick 7.00 Classic Newsnight 7.30 Sonata. Prokofiev (Violin Sonata No 2 in D major Op 94a) 8.00 Evening Concert. Roger Quilter (Children's Overture); Prokofiev (Ugly Duckling; Peter and the Wolf); Bizet (Jeux d'Enfants); Poulenc (Babar the Elephant) 10.00 Michael Maybin 1.00am Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Horne 7.00 Paul Coyle (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Randal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Includes Josquin (Miserere mei Deus); Tchaikovsky (Piano Concerto No 1 in B flat minor)
9.00 Morning Collection. Peter Hobday features Brahms string quintets and sextets
10.00 Musical Encounters. Includes Balfour Gardiner (Overture to a Comedy); Vivaldi (Canta in Prato, Ride in Monte, RV823)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Charles Koechlin
1.00pm News; BBC Lunchtime Concert. BBC Singers and London Brass under Stephen Cleobury perform Stravinsky (Octet); Gabrieli (Jubilate Deo; Timor et Tremor 1615); Stravinsky (Mass)
2.00 From the Proms. Another chance to hear Truls Mork, cello, and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Osmo Vanska (r)
3.45 Voices (r)
4.30 Hoagy's Jazz (4/4) (r)
5.00 Music Machine
5.15 In Tune, with Jeremy Nicholas. Includes Alfven (Swedish Festive Music); Liszt (Hexameron); Beethoven (Nine Variations on a March by Dressler, WoO 63)
7.30 Singing the Century. Live from St John's, Smith Square in London. Madema (Dialodia); Dallapiccola (Carmina Alcaei); Holt (Lilith); Schoenberg (Herzgewachse)
8.15 Italian Encounters 8.35 Concert, part 2. Scelsi (Yamaon, first UK performance); Donatoni (Tenis)
9.25 Noise A series exploring modern sounds (1/5)
9.35 The Art of Touching the Keyboard, by Judith Weir
10.00 Ensemble. Penny Gore introduces a recital by Lucy Jeal, violin, and Julian Milford, piano. Mozart (Violin Sonata in C, K303); Brahms (Violin Sonata No 2 in A, Op 100); Ravel (Tzigane)
10.45 Mixing It, with Mark Russell
11.30 Composer of the Week: Hans Pfitzner (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes
1.00 Through the Night

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.45 Letters from Here and There 8.58 Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, with *Times* columnist Melvyn Bragg and guests
10.00 News; The Lipman Test (FM). An examination of the British at play (1/6)
10.00 Daily Service (LW)
10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.30 Woman's Hour
11.30 Money Box Live: 0171-580 4444. Personal finance news
12.00 News; You and Yours (FM)
12.25pm Counterpoint 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers (FM) (r)
2.00 News; Sisters, by Tina Popler. With Haydn Gwynne
3.00 The Afternoon Shift
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope
4.45 Short Story: The Astronomical Scarf, by Ruth Rendell
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Just a Minute (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 The Food Programme, with Derek Cooper (r)
7.45 The Monday Play: A House by the Sea. See Choice
9.00 On the Hoof (2/3) (r)
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Great Railway Bazaar, by Paul Theroux. Read by William Hurt (1/10) (r)
11.00 The Trade Rag (FM), with Nick Baker (5/6) (r)
11.00 Education Matters (LW), with Philippa Dolley
11.30 King Solomon's Carpet (FM) (4/4) (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)
12.00 News incl 12.27am Weather
12.30am The Late Book: I Am Still the Greatest Says Johnny Angelo, by Nik Cohn. Read by John Guerrasio (1/3)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

Major coup for *train steward*

TRAVELLING by train to Darlington last week, John Major caused a stir. Ensconced in first class, with his sleeves rolled up and head in his work all the way from King's Cross, the Prime Minister set the kitchen sizzling. Stopping only to tuck into a full English breakfast — ten out of ten for the chef at Great North Eastern Railway — the Prime Minister was the focus of one particular steward's gaze. Almost as soon as the travelling dignitary had polished off the contents of the frying pan, the said steward, tongue fixed firmly in cheek, was auctioning off both Major's knife and fork. Starting price? £50.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Lost face

A VAST photograph of Colin Phipps, the founder and former chairman of Clyde Petroleum, who rather unsportingly sold his shares in the UK oil independent, helping Gulf Canada to gain control, has been defaced. The picture of Phipps (in which he is curiously dressed in shorts) that hangs in the Clyde boardroom, has been flipped over to face the wall. A giant "120p" has been scribbled in bold on the other side.



Middleton: after the smoke

Rounder about the Middleton

PETER MIDDLETON stubbed out his last cigarette last year and the effects are already beginning to show. According to employees at Salomon Brothers, their chief executive's decision to kick the smoking habit before he walked down the aisle with sweetheart Anita, a 31-year-old nurse, last September, has left him looking at least two stone heavier.

GALLONS of tea and coffee and kilos of biscuits will be available for Halifax members at the society's special general meeting today at the Sheffield Arena — 2,000 are expected.

Rabbit trick

NICK LESLAU, chief executive of Trocadero (of Segaworld fame), was said to be behaving like a naughty schoolboy grappling with one of his electronic games. Accosted by a distraught mother, who asked him if he had anything to do with management, Leslau dashed to the aid of her five-year-old daughter. The child, close to tears, had secured a cuddly rabbit with the game's electronic claw but could not make it let go. Leslau did the decent thing and summoned management with the appropriate key.

A DOUBLE coup for London Scottish, the rugby union club eyeing a market listing. Having signed Scotland star Gavin Hastings as a non-executive director, it then signed Derek Lee, the Watsonians full-back. Any connection? After all, Lee has been keeping Hastings out of the Watsonians first XV this season.

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Begorra, there's sure no Bally place like it

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

Right, hands up who made it to the last episode of *Nostromo*? I see. I think then we'd better start with **Ballykissangel** (BBC1).

Not that many of you are watching that any more. Since David Jason and *A Touch of Frost* got under way on ITV, *Ballykissangel*'s audience has fallen by millions, a fact that fills my heart with joy and exposes this ridiculous series for what it is — a puffed-up confection of clichéd, state-subsidised Irish whimsy that enjoyed success solely because there was nothing better to watch. Now there is, we're off.

Last night, however, I felt duty-bound to check that this was indeed the final episode. My, what a cliffhanger — Niamh was pregnant (although it's impossible to believe that Ambrose had anything to do with it) and Assumpta (Dervla Kirwan) was thinking of moving to Dublin. Don't go, pleaded Father Clifford (Stephen Tompkinson), who is now so wet that I fully expect Brian Quigley to announce plans to turn him into a cress farm. "There are different kinds of family," he whimpered, "there are different kinds of love." And with that, he ripped off his dog collar and seizing Assumpta by the . . . No, sorry, my mistake — and with that, Assumpta looked as she has for most of the series: bored and uninterested. Will no one rid her of this tedious priest?

So much for unrequited love, on with the action. Two binocular-wielding strangers were in town. Cut to Quigley (the always splendid Tony Doyle) offering Assumpta a cash-in-hand, no-VAT deal on her plumbing. Must be Revenue men, we all thought. Must be Revenue men, thought the population of Ballykissangel ten minutes later. Half an hour of duty-evading subplots later, the gentleman in question turned out to be from the Fraud Squad. As a dramatic twist . . . well, it fair takes your breath away, doesn't it?

I still find disconcerting the information that the series is "Produced with the support of Investment Incentives for the Irish Film Industry, provided by the Government of Ireland", although I'm not sure why. Something to do with foreign governments subsidising our Sunday evenings, I suppose. On the other hand, I found the confirmation at the end of **Nostromo** (BBC2, Saturday) that "This Work has been subsidised by GRECO as part of the Media Programme of the European Union" rather charming. *Nostromo* looked more like a European co-production than anything I have seen on television for about 20 years.

At times it resembled nothing more than a game of England versus the Rest of the World. Albert Finney, Colin Firth, Serena Scott Thomas and Paul Brooke gamely lining up to take on battalions of handsomely sweary Latin actors, half of whom wanted to look like Robert De Niro and the other half like Joaquim Cortes, the flamenco dancer. But the more you thought about it, the more authentic it became — this was supposed to be South America. All that was needed was a little act of faith. All right, a big one.

You had to ignore the fact that Spanish and Italian actors do not look or act like the home-grown variety, and you had to ignore the fact that dubbing their voices into *Tales from Europe* English only multiplied these differences. Then it was just a case of forgetting about the ocean liner that set computer effects back about ten years and overlooking the fact that military power in Sulaco seemed to rest with whichever side had more than 24 soldiers and you were almost there. And *Nostromo* was . . . almost there.

Flawed it may have been, but at least the production did an impressive job of unravelling the complexities of Conrad's plot. How tempting it must have been, however, to call a halt halfway through last night's final instalment. Nostromo (Claudio Amendola) had the silver, General Barrios (Ismael E. Carlo) had saved Sulaco, Charles Gould (Firth) and Dr Monygham (Finney) had both faced death and survived, and the fair Emilia (Scott Thomas) had not been ravished by the wicked Don Pedro — nor indeed by her neglectful husband.

But Conrad's theme, the corruption of greed, would not countenance anything so close to a happy ending. Unfortunately it fell to Giorgio — innkeeper, lighthouse-keeper and troublesome daughter-keeper — to fire the fatal shot. Given the trouble they'd had in dubbing his voice, I was fully prepared for Nostromo to fall mortally wounded several seconds before the rifle went off but, for once, events passed in the conventional order. "Bang" . . . "Ah" . . . The End.

Mahmood Jamal wore his central theme as proudly as Conrad, as his promising but fairly baffling new drama **Turning World** (Channel 4) got under way last night. The one thing clear at this stage is that it's about brains and the horrible things we do to them, as witnessed by the electro-convulsive therapy freely meted out in Dr Khan's mental hospital, the patient who also just happens to be a boxer and Khan's elderly housekeeper, who appears to be displaying early signs of Alzheimer's. And then there is Art Malik.

Malik plays Shams, a furtive, pot-smoking stranger from Peshawar, who turned up in semi-rural England unannounced. "Where is room?" he asked, in comic stereotype. His very pukka host, who just happened to be brought up in Peshawar but has clearly not read *The Moonstone*, showed him. I look forward to discovering what it's *really* all about in due course.

Finally, a few words about the much-heralded episode of **Roseanne** (Channel 4, Friday) featuring Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley. It was absolutely awful.

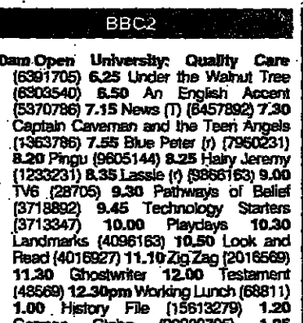
BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (94417)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (74057)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (8437347)
9.20 Style Challenge (1167786)
9.45 Kilroy (6425250)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (26347)
11.00 News (T) (6001453)
11.05 The Really Useful Show (3075502)
11.35 Change That (5986231)
12.00 News (T) and weather (6010279)
12.05pm The Alphabet Game (5696347)
12.30 Going for a Song (7970182)
12.55 The Weather Show (34094328)
1.00 News (T) and weather (77144)
1.30 Regional News (98911811)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (20580502)
2.05 Fire in the Dark (1991) with Olympia Dukakis. A 75-year-old widow who leads an active and spirited life suddenly begins to realise her limitations. Directed by David Jones (7625106)
3.30 Playdays (1399892) **3.50** Pingu (2414453) **3.55** Bodger and Badger (7193057) **4.10** Gadget Boy (9493366) **4.35** Record Breakers Gold (6987960) **5.00** Newsround (T) (7851328) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (1134502)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (650873)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (T) and weather (279)
6.30 Newsroom South East (231)
7.00 This Is Your Life (7250)
7.30 Here and Now Exotic pets, the safety of seatbelts in school minibuses and whether becoming mega-rich overnight changes people's lives (T) (415)
8.00 EastEnders Grant's return is greeted with delight by Lorraine, but Peggy isn't so pleased to see him (T) (3298)
8.30 The Brittas Empire Gordon arrives at work ready to celebrate Whitbury Leisure Centre's seventh birthday (T) (2705)
9.00 News (T) and weather (1057)
9.30 The Bridgewater Three — Miscarriage of Justice John Ware talks to James Robinson, Michael Hickey and Vincent Hickey and their lawyer who uncovered evidence that finally won the three men their freedom (T) (895845)
10.10 Ruby Wax Meets Jane Seymour, Lisa Kudrow and John Goodman (T) (760811)
10.40 The Beast of Lenny Henry (838908) **WALES: 10.40** *The Slate* **11.10** A Parent's Guide **11.25** Film 97 **11.55** The Beast of Lenny Henry **12.25am** FILM: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* **2.10 News 11.10 Film 97 with Barry Norman** Reviews of *The Crucible*, starring Daniel Day-Lewis and Winona Ryder, Tim Burton's madcap sci-fi comedy *Mars Attacks*, and *The Portrait of a Lady*, which features Nicole Kidman as a 19th-century American heiress. Plus, Woody Harrelson and Milos Foreman discuss their new drama, *The People v Larry Flynt* (T) (775366)
11.40 Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (1958) with Paul Newman, Elizabeth Taylor, Burl Ives and Jack Carson. Strained relations mark the birthday of southern plantation owner and patriarch Big Daddy. Directed by Richard Brooks (T) (444705)
1.25am Weather (7153651)

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BBC2

6.00am Open University: Quality Care (6391705) **6.25** Under the Walnut Tree (6303540) **6.50** An English Accent (5370786) **7.15** News (T) (6457892) **7.30** Captain Caveman and the Teen Angels (1363786) **7.55** Blue Peter (r) (7960231) **8.20** Pingu (9605144) **8.25** Hairy Jeremy (1233231) **8.35** Lassie (r) (9866163) **9.00** TV6 (28705) **9.30** Pathways of Belief (3718892) **9.45** Technology Starters (3713347) **10.00** Playdays **10.30** Landmarks (4096163) **10.50** Look and Read (4016927) **11.10** Zig Zag (2016569) **11.30** Ghostwriter **12.00** Testament (48569) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (68811) **1.00** History File (15613279) **1.20** German Globo (98280705) **1.25** Landmarks (15692786) **1.45** Storytime (98998960) **2.00** Pingu (r) (35701637) **2.05** Hairy Jeremy (r) (35700908)
2.10 Lucky Partners (1940, b/w) with Ginger Rogers, Ronald Colman and Jack Carson. When a handsome stranger wishes a lady good luck, she decides to buy a sweepstake ticket with him on a hunch. But she soon finds she is taking a chance on romance as well as good fortune. Directed by Lewis Milestone (932328)
3.55 News, Regional News (T) and weather (2411366) **4.00** Today's the Day (144) **4.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (328) **5.00** Esther (2328) **5.30** Going, Going, Gone (908) **6.00** Space Precinct (r)(411618)
6.45 As Seen on TV Highlights from the first three series includes a boy's experiences of taking his pet to the vet's (402490)
7.00 People's Century: Fast Forward New tensions and dangers emerging after the demise of communism (r) (T) (7989)
7.58 Video Nation Shorts (501809)
8.00 Jeremy Clarkson's Motorworld Clarkson investigates motoring in Iceland (r) (T) (4540)



Ray Mears in the Arctic (8.30pm)

8.30 Ray Mears's World of Survival How to build an igloo, fish through the ice and melt your own drinking water in the Arctic (T) (6237)
9.00 The Only Way Out (1993) with John Ritter, Stephanie Faracy and Henry Winkler. A sociopath terrorises an architect and his wife who were in the throes of an amicable divorce, and her new boyfriend. Directed by Rod Hardy (T) (9188) **10.30** Newsnight (T) (921453)
11.15 The Net American biologist Tom Ray plans to release digital creatures on the Internet (256811)
12.00 The Midnight Hour (32922)
12.30am-6.00 Learning Zone: Open University: a Tale of Two Capitals (35767) **1.30** Modern Art (39496) **2.00** Nightschool TV: Modern Languages (83477) **4.00** BBC Focus: Italia 2000 (42545) **4.30** Science Master Classes (31274) **5.30** RCN Nursing Update (33851)

CHOICE

Ray Mears's World of Survival
BBC2, 8.30pm

We have previously encountered Ray Mears, an expert on wildernesses, in the countryside programme *Tracks*. For this series he goes farther afield, reporting on how indigenous peoples survive in extreme conditions. He starts on the northern shore of Baffin Island in the Canadian Arctic. The barrenness of the landscape, and temperatures 30 degrees below that of the average home freezer, make it surprising that anybody should live there. But the Inuit people have done so for centuries and Mears lets us in on some of the secrets. He helps to build an igloo, goes on a caribou hunt and watches the harpooning of a seal. Mears admits that such traditional skills are on the decline as the younger Inuit look to more modern methods of securing their food and shelter. But he does not allow this to spoil his story.

Blues and Twos: The Night D
ITV, 8.30pm

The cameras join Kirk Dawes of West Midlands CID on an eventful night shift at Sutton Coldfield. The son of Jamaican immigrants, he joined the police 20 years ago at the age of 18 and has spent much of his career at the sharp end. In his current job he works alone and is responsible for investigating all crimes in an area of 50 square miles. The emergency services featured in *Blues and Twos* tend to like the show and it is easy to understand why. While it boasts that what we see is what actually happens, with no touching-up afterwards, the professionals invariably come out well. Cock-ups are rare. And so it is tonight, the last programme in the series, as detective Dawes is called to a car crash, goes after muggers and pursues a gang who attack an Afro-Caribbean man with a machete.

Cutting Edge: The Bed
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Norman Hull's documentary takes one NHS hospital bed in Derby and follows it, and its occupants, through a year. It is a clever device for a multifaceted look at the NHS and its problems. We first get the lowdown on the bed itself, how much it costs, how long it lasts and how many patients use it. But the film is much more about people and although Hull is not trying to score political points, Derby City General Hospital echoes most of the current debates about the running of the NHS. Operations are cancelled at the last minute because of a shortage of beds, nurses complain of low morale and there are charges of too many managers and not enough medics. Despite all that, the standard of treatment and care seems high. Derby City General is not at all a bad place to have to come.

For the Love Of . . .
Channel 4, midnight

"We are not crazy," declares one of the contributors to tonight's discussion, but you are entitled to wonder. Here are six people prepared to face the camera in all seriousness and declare that the American Moon landing of July 20, 1969, never happened. The entire episode was faked in a television studio, so that the United States could be seen to be beating the Soviet Union in the space race. And not only was the evidence for the Moon landings counterfeit but it was encoded so that the faking could eventually be revealed. It is a thesis so improbable that you are almost bound to stay tuned to discover how it can be justified. In part the case is that the mission was scientifically impossible, in part that the photographs taken on the Moon are inconsistent with the TV images and within their own parameters. **Peter Waymark**

6.00am GMTV (1071415)
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (1175705)
9.55 Regional News (T) (5150569)
10.00 The Time, the Place (56163)
10.30 This Morning (33403328)
12.20pm Regional News (T) (6009163)
12.30 News (T) and weather (7965250)
12.55 High Road (7980569)
1.25 Home and Away (T) (15603892)
1.50 Savannagh (7612618)
2.30 Murder She Wrote (1896450)
3.20 News (T) (3701881) **3.25** Regional News (T) (4151322)
3.30 Tots TV (7118366) **3.40** Rainbow Days (9809328) **3.50** Gooly (7112182) **4.05** Sooty's Amazing Adventures (1193989)
4.20 Snap New children's drama series about a disorganised photographer, and Ben, his long-suffering son (9484618)
4.45 Art Attack (T) (6901540)
5.10 Bagdad Cafe (r) (T) (7451705)
5.40 ITN News (T) and weather (833279)
5.59 HTV Crimestoppers (539724)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (884786)
6.30 HTV News (927)
7.00 Wish You Were Here? Linda Lusardi boards the world's biggest cruise liner for a tour of the Caribbean, Judith Chalmers visits the north coast of Ireland, and Mary Nightingale hikes through the Austrian Alps (T) (9618)
7.30 Coronation Street (T) (811)
8.00 World in Action The former Director-General of the Prison Service, Derek Lewis, speaks out about his relationship with the Home Secretary (T) (8366)
8.30 Blues and Twos A delivery man is mugged, a teenager is stabbed and man is attacked with a machete (T) (7873)



Houston and Costner (9.00pm)

9.00 The Bodyguard (1992) with Kevin Costner and Whitney Houston. The singing superstar takes on a bodyguard to defend her. The feisty singer and her uncompromising protector cannot see eye to eye about anything and there is friction — which sparks a romance. Directed by Mick Jackson. Continued after the news (T) (3927)
10.00 News at Ten (T) (36724) **10.30 Regional News** (T) (305521)
10.40 The Bodyguard Continues and concludes (T) (4826453)
12.00 The Making of Evita (r) (68922)
1.00 Football Extra (2644699)
1.45 War of the Worlds (7411583)
2.40 Club Nation (r) (9019632)
3.35 God's Gift (r) (2216854)
4.30 World in Action (r) (T) (39598)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (77670)
5.30 ITN Morning News (37477)

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (7980569)
1.50 Blue Heelers (4523415)
2.50-3.20 High Road (5401076)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7451705)
6.25-7.00 Central News (951811)
12.05am New York News (4856380)
1.45 Stand and Deliver (8594038)
2.50 Film: The Woman for Joe (7857106)
4.20 Central Jobfinder '97 (5679854)
5.20 Asian Eye (2349699)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (6009163)
12.55-1.25 Gardeners' Diary (7980569)
1.50 Brief Encounters (20595434)
2.20 A Country Practice (9826386)
3.10-3.20 Breakaways (2038095)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7451705)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (47328)
12.05am Prisoner: Cell Block H (4856380)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (7980569)
1.50 Getaways (20595434)
2.20-3.20 Blue Heelers (7559786)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7451705)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (347)
6.30-7.00 Country Ways (927)
12.00am Prisoner: Cell Block H (68922)
5.00 Freescreen (77670)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (7980569)
1.50 Blue Heelers (4523415)
2.50-3.20 Gardens Without Borders (5401076)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7451705)
6.23 Anglia Weather (164569)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (951811)
12.00am Highlander (68922)

S4C

Starts: 6.00 Sesame Street (95637)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (90095)
9.00 Bewitched (13873)
9.30 Ysgolion (345811)
12.00 Right to Reply (33637)
12.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (60279)
1.00 Slot Meithrin (93182)
1.30 Scarecrow (11009811)
1.50 Film: Carlton-Browne of the FO (18403366)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (705)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (540)
4.30 Bloom (724)
5.00 5 Pump (1304)
5.30 Countdown (796)
6.00 Newyddion (869502)
6.05 Heno (895892)
6.35 Jacpot (130502)
7.00 Pobol y Cwm (554453)
7.25 Y Byd Ar Bedwar (185750)
8.00 Ma' Ifan 'Ma (6908)
8.30 Newyddion (5415)
9.00 I Dot (1569)
10.00 Sgorio (1328)
11.00 NBA Raw (70231)
12.00 Film: Cat Ballou (813019)

6.00am Sesame Street (95637) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (90095) **9.00** Bewitched (r) (T) (13873) **9.30** Schools (345811) **12.00** Right to Reply (r) (33637) **12.30pm** Here's One I Made Earlier (r) (60279) **1.00** Cybill (r) (T) (24218095) **1.25** The High Sign (15610182)
1.45 The Return of Frank James (1940) Western directed by Fritz Lang (T) (94494415)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (705) **4.00** Fifteen-to-One (T) (540) **4.30** Countdown (T) (724) **5.00** The Montel Williams Show (T) (1304) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (796)
6.00 Moviewatch Johnny Vaughan talks to Tim Burton about the sci-fi spoof *Mars Attacks* and Jennifer Tilly about her movie *Bound* (989)
6.30 Hollyoaks Ollie asks Stan to act as a go-between (T) (569)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) and weather (187569)
7.55 The Royal Photographer Ingrid Seward examines the finalists in the Royal Photographer of the Year competition (206237)
8.00 Seven Wonders of the World (2/4) John Romer looks at two testaments to the power of Alexander the Great: the Pharos, the 300ft lighthouse at Alexandria, and the tomb at Halicarnassus, burial place of King Mausolus and the first mausoleum (r) (T) (1705)



One of the many occupants (9.00pm)

9.00 Cutting Edge: The Bed Norman Hull directs a documentary about the differing inhabitants of a hospital bed over the course of a year (T) (1569)
10.00 Dark Skies John and Kimberly investigate an old Indian legend and discover a connection with an earthquake in Alaska (T) (1328)
11.00 NBA Raw Action from the LA Lakers v the New York Knicks (70231)
12.00 For the Love Of Jon Ronson meets six people who are convinced that the Moon landings never took place (2/6) (T) (2512835)
1.05 am Animal Nights Introduction (7166125)
1.08 Animal Squad Undercover: The Italian Jobs (r) (T) (5921336)
2.00 One Animal, Some Animals The restoration of the zoological gallery at the Museum of Natural History, Paris (r) (9566421)
3.10 Sexual Imperative: A Time and a Place What triggers reproduction? (r) (T) (1575729)
4.10 Animal Traffic: Taste for the Exotic (r) (T) (5657632)
5.05 The Grampian Sheepdog Trials in Aberdeenshire (r) (3935274)
5.35 Backdate (r) (T) (2140496)

● For *more comprehensive* listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (735705) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (72256) **10.00** Another World (31366) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (11502) **12.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (87960) **1.00pm** Geraldo (88368) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (17296) **3.00** Jenny Jones (24694) **4.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (22569) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (1095) **6.00** Real TV (4057) **6.30** Married — with Children (9637) **7.00** The Simpsons (2724) **7.30** M*A*S*H (7521) **8.00** Napoleon and Josephine: A Love Story (45637) **10.00** Nash Bridges (25144) **11.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (92095) **12.00** LAPD (72554) **12.30am** The Lucy Show (33187) **1.00** Hit Me Long Play (9861212)

SKY 2

7.00pm Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (5234540) **8.00** Star Trek: Voyager (5370960) **9.00** Poltergeist: The Legacy (5390724) **10.00** Outer Limits (5393811) **11.00** Late Show with David Letterman (5669908) **12.00** Hit Mix (7156835)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Final Men in the Moon (1964) (63756) **8.00 Sleep, Baby, Sleep** (1985) (91250) **10.00 The Longshot** (1986) (19588) **12.00 Esther and the King** (1960) (81873) **2.00pm Rough Diamonds** (1994) (49724) **4.00 Grizzly Mountain** (1993) (6927) **6.00 War of the Buttons** (1994) (69347) **7.30 El Fesbuter** (1989) **8.00 Bad Girls** (1994) (31705) **10.00 Cobb** (1994) (82572502) **12.10am Mindwarp** (1991) (990767) **1.45 Playmaker** (1994) (182598) **3.15 Goodbye Pork Pie** (1981)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am The Curse of the Cat People (1944) (6401927) **7.15** *Bigfoot: The Unforgettable Encounter* (1994) (831540) **8.45: Where the Red Fern Grows** (1974) (68553182) **10.25 Teacher's Pet** (1958) (10159618) **12.25pm The St Tammany Miracle** (1994) (8415021)

2.00 Slattery's Hurricane (1949) (47366) **4.00 Where the Red Fern Grows** (1974) (4569) **6.00 Bigfoot: The Unforgettable Encounter** (1994) (27502) **8.00 Stuart Saves His Family** (1995) (39347) **10.00 Timecop** (1994) (145637) **11.40 True Romance** (1993) (548960) **1.40am Mondo Trasho** (1969) (579800) **3.15 The Red Shoe Diaries: Weekend Pass** (1993) (322855) **4.45 Teacher's Pet** (1958) (994477)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm Off Limits (1953) (8077788) **8.00 The Secret of My Success** (1987) (8072231) **10.00 Conan the Barbarian** (1982) (44806837) **12.10am The King of Marvin Gardens** (1972) (6735039) **1.55-5.00 Gandhi** (1982) (91195699)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 9pm, then TNT films as follows
9.00pm On the Town (1949) (28486076)
11.00 The Hill (1965) (66812724)
12.45am Come (1978) (89149748) **2.45-5.00 Ladies Who Do** (1964) (56121651)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over at 10pm.
6.00am Mouse Tracks (8632618) **6.25** Quack Attack (9844453) **6.50** Bonkers (3283368) **7.15** Little Mermaid (8485250) **7.40** Aladdin (1498540) **8.05** New Doug (7515811) **8.30** Timon & Pumbaa (6878415) **8.40** Care Bears (4159366) **9.10** Groundling Marsh (5580453) **9.40** Big Garage (4462873) **9.55** Lamb Chop (4529298) **10.25** Muppet Babies (8413540) **10.50** Dumbo's Circus (4249207) **11.20** Mouse Tracks (5994250) **11.50** Umbrella Tree (4513453) **12.20pm** Timon & Pumbaa (2000231) **12.35** Little Mermaid (4532502) **1.00** Flipper (9193540) **1.45** Aladdin (57087182) **2.10** Darkwing Duck (77881326) **2.35** Bonkers (17822311) **3.00** Quack Attack (9556434) **3.25** Timon & Pumbaa (2403682) **3.35** Goof Troop (16185569) **4.00** Timon & Pumbaa (7601328) **4.10** Goof Troop (2413231) **4.35** Bonkers (9037873) **5.00** Aladdin (6184873) **5.25** Timon & Pumbaa (6748756) **5.35** Darkwing Duck (551163) **6.00** New Doug (6911) **6.30** Roy Meets World (9163) **7.00** Brotherly Love (3250) **7.30 FILM:** Pets (65365) **9.00** Dave's World (10499) **9.30** Golden Girls

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Ghosts (7225989) **6.30** Inspector Gadget (9878589) **7.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (5643980) **7.30** Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (5662095) **8.00** Masked Rider (5330250) **8.30** Crocadoo (5328521) **9.00** Rambo's Island (1789328) **9.25** Why Why Family (9308873) **9.30** Zoobilee Zoo (1626618) **9.45** Why Why Family (1614873) **10.00** Rimba's Island (9189953) **10.25** Why Why Family (7834989) **10.30** Zoobilee Zoo (21249521) **10.55** Why Why Family (41528366) **11.00** Princess Sparkle and the Jewel Riders (4838992) **11.30** Pinocchio (6830521) **12.00** Billy the Cat (5340537) **12.30pm** Princess Sparkle and the Jewel Riders (9602250) **1.00** Pinocchio (5642231) **1.30** Billy the Cat (9801521) **2.00** Three Little Ghosts (5823250) **2.30** Inspector Gadget (3927453) **3.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (5819057) **3.30** Ace Ventura (3838298) **4.00** Casper (3918705) **4.30** Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (3914989) **5.00** Masked Rider (5814502) **5.30** Spiderman (3938569) **6.00** Goosebumps (3828182) **6.30-7.00** Sweet Valley High (3919434)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am World Sport Special (51521) **7.30** Beach Volleyball (17540) **8.30** Racing News (745211) **9.00** Motorsport: World of Speed and Beauty (65873) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (22540) **11.00** Golf: South African PGA Championship (91415) **12.30pm** Football Special (67298) **2.00** Spanish Football (64453) **3.30** British Basketball (437366) **5.00** Sports Centre (5560) **6.30** Football: Tartan Extra (9521) **7.00** Football: West Ham United v Tottenham Hotspur — Live (9221988) **10.30** Sports Centre (82786) **11.00** Football: Tartan Extra (38144) **11.30** High 5 (50827) **12.00** Sports Centre (27038) **12.30am** Monday Night Football (60090) **2.30-3.00** Sports Centre (91458)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Rebel Sports (82800892) **12.30pm** High 5 (66090540) **1.00** Golf: Chrysler Classic (97954076) **3.00** World Sport Special (66626521) **3.30** Football League Review (38103786) **6.00** Rebel Sports (21918786) **6.30** High 5 (21932365) **7.00** Sports Centre (66510502) **7.30-11.30** Golf: Australian Masters (61078231)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Athletics: Ricoh Indoor Tour (19908) **8.30** Nordic Skiing: World Championships (63811) **9.30** Nordic Skiing: World Championships — Live (24808) **11.00** Tennis: Hannover WTA Tournament (51144) **12.00** Nordic Skiing: World Championships — Live (54328) **1.30pm** Eurosports (93778) (6975568) **7.00** The Doctor Sones. In Charge 2 (3651434) **7.30** No Honestly (6964453) **8.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (1758078) **9.00** Classic Coronation Street (5462298) **9.35** Good Life Guido (4886250) **10.00-11.00** The Professionals (1772927)
From 11.00pm-2.00am Men and Motors

GRANADA GOOD LIFE

From **5.00am-9.00** TV High Street
From **9.00-12.00** Food and Wine
From **12.00-3.00pm** Health and Beauty
From **3.00-5.00** Home and Garden

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Biography: Adam and Eve (3586095) **5.00** History Alive (4322908) **6.00** Our Century (3068569) **7.00-8.00** Biography: Richard Nixon (1139144)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm *Amazing Stories* (4309057) **8.30** Making of Mars Attack (4311892) **9.00 FILM:** Invaders from Mars (1158279) **11.00** The Invaders (4558373) **12.00** Incredible Hulk (8810100) **1.00am** Making of Mars Attack (8899458) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (2709090) **2.00** *100 Years of Horror* (90923380) **2.30** *Night Gallery* (9088187) **3.00** *Friday the 13th* (3919941)

Eighty years of the R.A.F. in *Battle for the Skies* (Discovery, 10pm)

2.00 Tennis: Krotger/St Jude International Tournament (87908) **4.00** Football: World Cup Legends (55811) **5.00** Nordic Skiing: World Championships (4347) **6.00** Luge: World Cup (15366) **7.00** Motorsport: Speedworld (76453) **9.00** Sumo: Basho Tournament (88637) **10.00** Football: Eurogoals (81724) **11.00-12.30** Snooker: Hendry v O'Sullivan (74927)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Krypton Factor (3572750) **6.30** Once Upon a Time (80610724) **6.45** Our Backyard (41355502) **7.00** Allsorts (77257861) **7.15** Once Upon a Time (47792507) **7.30** Children's Ward (3769231) **8.00** Classic Coronation Street (2474347) **8.30** Families (24736318) **9.00** The Professionals (3772558) **10.00** Please Sir! (84677618) **10.30** No Honestly (24861821) **11.00** Within These Walls (3785279) **12.00** Classic Coronation Street (24774341) **12.30pm** Families (80868827) **1.00** Crown Court (37890951) **1.30** The Krypton Factor (74136368) **2.00** A Family at War (8468347) **3.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (28196327) **4.00** The Doctor Sones: In Charge 2 (69675401) **4.30** Please Sir! (69637324) **5.00** The Professionals (36507061) **6.00** Classic Coronation Street (69519969) **6.30** Families

TLC/DISCOVERY

9.00am The Joy of Painting (27032998) **9.30** Gardeners' Diary (16022373) **10.00** Surprise Chefs (78370951) **10.30** Our House (27921821) **11.00** The Painted House (79944151) **11.30** This Old House (79851144) **12.00** Meals in Minutes (27834434) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (13507809) **1.00** Today's Gourmet (13260571) **1.30** Home Again (84527501) **2.00** Hometime (56066181) **2.30** Furniture on the Mend (25002501) **3.00** Two's Country (56184631) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (25120951)
DISCOVERY takes over at 4.00pm.
4.00pm Fishing Adventures II (25891502) **4.30** Bush Tucker Man (25977781) **5.00** Connections 2 (56202596) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (25113981) **6.00** Wild Things (88558581) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (56004434) **7.30** Wonders of Weather (25984151) **8.00** History's Turning Points (56191821) **8.30** Bush Tucker Man (56065981) **9.00** Lonely Planet (33708811) **10.00** Battle for the Skies (66259581) **12.00** Classic Wheels (96079031) **1.00am** Roadshow (63257671) **1.30-2.00** World of Adventures (43468001)

UK GOLD

7.00am Tellystack (76662501) **7.35** Neighbours (92470951) **8.00** Crossroads (93639081) **8.25** EastEnders (46337141) **9.00** The Bill (27720029) **9.30** Bread (96022291) **10.00** Never the Twain (78394453) **10.30** The Sullivans (27945401) **11.00** Bergerac (13579271) **12.00** Crossroads (27858921) **12.30pm** Neighbours (17078271) **1.00** EastEnders (97787241) **1.35** I Didn't Know You Cared (62116141) **2.15** *A Little Bit of Emmy* (61857415) **2.25** The Other One (20582501) **3.00** Tellystack (56108111) **3.30** The Bill (25144451) **4.00** All Creatures Great and Small (79101451) **5.00** Bob's Full House (50412501) **5.40** Crossroads (67618731) **6.05** EastEnders (39826371) **6.40** Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game (61464451) **7.30** *Are You Being Served?* (67170571) **8.30** *Hold the Dream* (26055691) **10.30** The Bill (89566401) **11.05** Sporting Image (98749271) **11.40** Dr Who Omnibus: Planet of the Daleks (12219521) **2.10am** Shopping (70857293)

TCC

6.00am Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (47540) **6.30** Ocean Odyssey (35231) **7.00** Escape from Jupiter (73089) **7.30** Flash Gordon (85724) **8.00** Batman (11076) **8.30** Dennis the Menace (10347) **9.00** Earthworm Jim (34927) **9.30** Bobby's World (47969) **10.00** Romuald the Reindeer (58811) **10.30** Iznogoud (23811) **11.00** Danger Mouse (99279) **11.30** Gravedale High (90808) **12.00** Oscar's Orchestra (14163) **12.30pm** Art Attack (41705) **1.00** Ann of Green Gables (39960) **2.00** Ocean Odyssey (2908) **2.30** Escape from Jupiter (7328) **3.00** Batman (1415) **3.30** Flash Gordon (2873) **4.00** Earthworm Jim (1908) **4.30-5.00** Dennis the Menace (1732)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Killer Tomatoes (62386) **6.30** Count Duckula (38705) **7.00** Rocko (6682811) **7.15** Hey Arnold! (71068373) **7.30** Rugrats (88298) **8.00** Doug (73692) **8.30** Arthur (72163) **9.00** Children's BBC (83415) **10.00** Wimzie's House (29057) **10.30** Babar (99297) **11.00** Magic School Bus (44705) **11.30pm** Henry's Cat/Wild Cats Cwac/Lizzie's Library/Topsey and Tim/Jambo (45434) **12.00** Bananas in Pyjamas (82279) **12.30** Little Bear Stories (43281) **1.00** Children's BBC (68434) **2.00** Dr Seuss (7434) **2.30** Kissyfur (5182) **3.00** Wishbone (6568) **3.30** Slidin' Around (7627) **4.00** Bruno the Kid (6434) **4.30** Rugrats (2618) **5.00** Sister Sister (8786) **5.30** Moesha (6296) **6.00** Press Gang (6811) **6.30-7.00** Doug (7163)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Entertainment UK (1250) **7.30** Roseanne (3347) **8.00** Roseanne (7298) **8.30** Monty Python's Flying Circus (6705) **9.00** Cheers (64569) **9.30** Taxi (90057) **10.00** Garry Shandling's Show (84908) **10.30** Frasier (60328) **11.00** In Bed with MeDinnar (35786) **11.30** Monty Python's Flying Circus (58569) **12.00** The Critic (18360) **12.30am** Soap (79803) **1.00** Cheers (42019) **1.30** Taxi (81496) **2.00** Entertainment UK (81403) **2.30** In Bed with MeDinnar (19800) **3.00** Frasier (55563) **3.30-4.00** Garry Shandling's Show (31980)

BRAVO

6.00pm Robocop (3170683) **8.00** *The New Twilight Zone* (7901705) **9.30** *The New Twilight Zone* (9002499) **10.00** Tour of Duty (8520304) **11.00** Goshogun: The Time Stranger (4486616) **1.00am** Robocop (1196354) **2.00** Tour of Duty (6638670) **3.00** Goshogun: The Time Stranger (2656293) **5.00** *The

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PLANE SAILING 42

BAe profits to reach for the skies

BUSINESS

MOVIE MAGIC 46

Lottery has lead role in revival of film industry



MONDAY FEBRUARY 24 1997

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

LME chief to be questioned over Sumitomo statement

BY JASON NISSÉ

DAVID KING, chief executive of the London Metal Exchange, is to face questions as to whether he breached the Financial Services Act when he was trying to calm markets over the Sumitomo scandal last year.

Mike O'Brien, Labour's Shadow Economic Secretary, is to raise the issue of Mr King's conduct with Sir Andrew Large, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the lead regulator for the LME, at a meeting due to take place this week.

Mr O'Brien will ask about a statement made by Mr King at the American Metal Markets conference this time last year, when he knew the copper price was being kept artificially high by Yasuo Hamanaka, Sumitomo's chief trader.

In response to a direct question Mr King said there were "good, sound fundamental economics" underpinning the copper price. However, on television last week Mr King admitted he knew differently but could not say because it would have been a "major distortional problem to the market". The copper price was kept high until late May when it started to crash, falling from a high of $3,000 a tonne to under $2,000.

"I will ask Sir Andrew whether he is certain that the Financial Services Act was not breached by these comments and whether he is satisfied that this was an appropriate way for Mr King to conduct himself," said Mr O'Brien.

The relevant part of the Act is section 47. It says: "Any person who does any act or engages in any course of conduct which creates a false or misleading impression as to the market in or the price or value of any investment is guilty of an offence."

Any prosecution would not be by the SIB. But it can recommend that an investigation is conducted by either the Department of Trade and Industry or the Serious Fraud Office, which have these powers. The SIB is understood to be reluctant to act, as section 47 requires the misleading statement to lead to a person buying or selling investments for it to be an offence. However, a leading lawyer told *The Times* that this could be interpreted as stopping someone from selling copper.

An LME spokesman said Mr King's motive was to create an orderly market. He could not say what he knew about Sumitomo's action because it was the subject of an investigation by the Securities and Futures Authority at the time.

"There were issues in the market that were confidential as regards the actions of other regulators," said the LME.

The LME, whose chairman is Lord Bagri, had no direct influence over Sumitomo. It is not a member of the exchange and much of the trading was conducted off-market. However, the role of Crédit Lyonnais Rouse, the metal broker, is being investigated.

Barings chiefs face ban as directors

BY ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ANDREW TUCKEY, the former deputy chairman of Barings, and nine other senior executives in charge at the merchant bank when it crashed with debts totalling £830 million face disqualification as company directors for up to 15 years.

The Department of Trade and Industry confirmed that the ten directors have been served notices informing them that legal proceedings in the civil courts have been started "in the wider public interest".

Using the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986, the DTI has told the nine men and Mary Walz, who was in charge of equity financial products and who last year unsuccessfully sued the bank for her £500,000 bonus, that it is seeking to ban them as company directors "for not less than two years and not more than 15 years".

The ten directors have already been investigated by the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the City watchdog for brokers and futures dealers. Mr Tuckey, who resigned from the bank after the crash only to rejoin a little later as a corporate finance consultant reputed to be earning £500,000, did not face disciplinary action by the SFA. He did agree with the watchdog, however, that he would play a "restricted role" in the City for the foreseeable future.

The other directors to face DTI action include George MacLean, Anthony Hawes, Geoffrey Broadhurst and Anthony Gamby, who have been suspended from senior SFA registers for periods of between one and three years and ordered to pay costs of between £5,000 and £10,000. Peter Norris, the former chief executive officer who is now a consultant to three magazines, including *Gardens Illustrated* and *The Fortean Times*, was barred from senior registers for three years and ordered to pay £10,000 in costs.

Ron Baker, who received a public reprimand and a £7,500 costs order, is appealing against that verdict. Ms Walz received a similar penalty, but did not appeal. The SFA case against James Bax, who was Nick Leeson's immediate boss in Singapore, has yet to be concluded. Ian Hopkins, the man widely regarded as the only senior executive to raise concerns about the rogue trader's dealings and who declined to attend the SFA's tribunal, was also banned from senior City posts for three years with £10,000 costs.

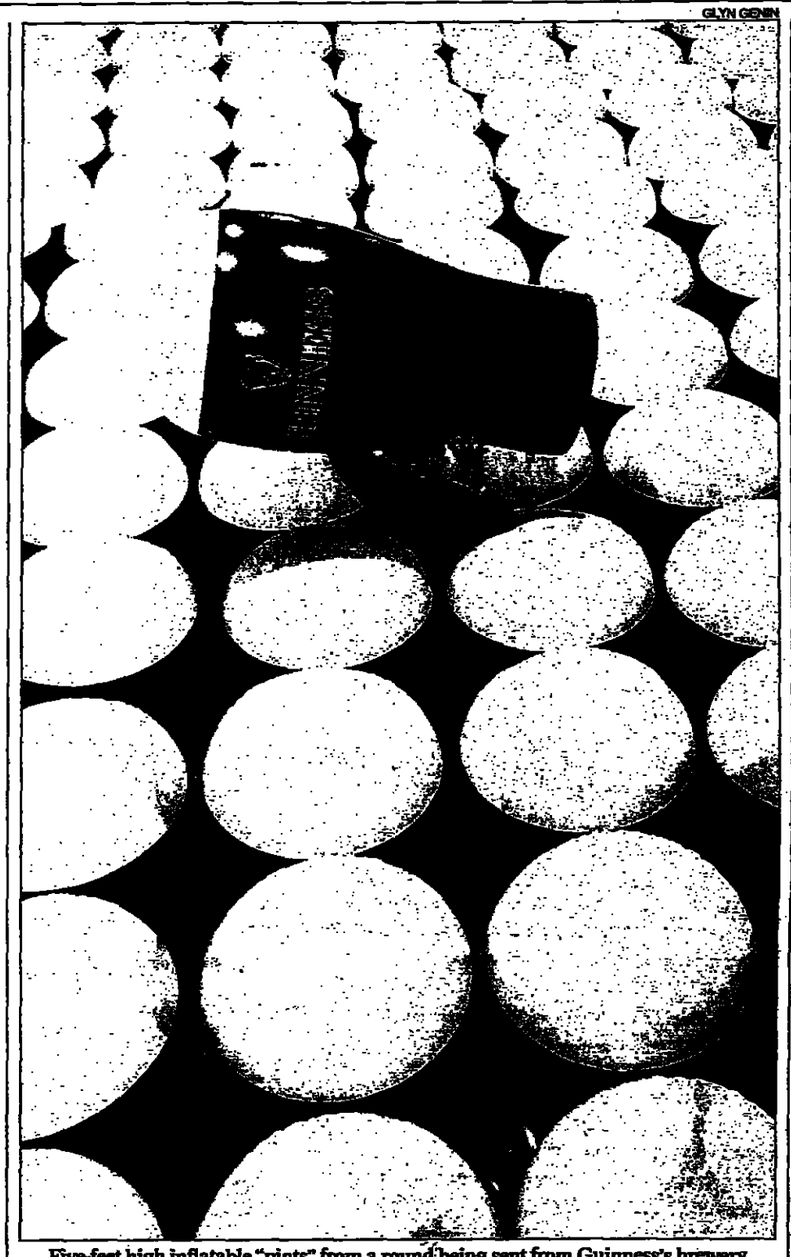
Commenting on the DTI action, Mr Hopkins told *The Times*: "This is yet more evidence of the establishment protecting itself and its own. I shall contest these proceedings vigorously and publicly."

The DTI said that Ian Lang, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, "has carefully considered the conduct of each of the directors involved in Barings and has decided after a careful review of the relevant information to commence proceedings against the ten directors".

The DTI has been increasingly aggressive in using its powers to disqualify directors. It often uses them after a report from the liquidators of an insolvent company. Among those facing disqualification proceedings are John Gunn, the former head of British & Commonwealth, and Stephen Hinchliffe, whose Facia empire collapsed last summer. Frank Warren, the boxing promoter, was banned for seven years after the collapse of the London Arena, where he was a director.

Barings collapsed two years ago next week and the DTI action has been taken now so that it falls within the time limits set for the prosecution of such cases. Some of the evidence that the DTI could use in the court case may come from the SFA's prosecutions and the report into the crash by the independent Board of Banking Supervision as well as the Singaporean inspectors' report and evidence submitted to the Commons Treasury Select Committee.

GLYN GENIN



Five-feet high inflatable "pints" from a round being sent from Guinness's brewery at Park Royal, London, which celebrated its 50th anniversary at the weekend, to promote the brew at 150,000 bars around the globe on St Patrick's Day, March 17

US utility set to bid for Yorkshire Electricity

BY JASON NISSÉ

YORKSHIRE Electricity has received an approach from a US utility that could lead to a £1.4 billion offer and leave only one of the 14 regional electricity companies (Recs) independent.

The bid, expected to price Yorkshire at 860p a share, would create a £2.5 million windfall for the Yorkshire directors, with Malcolm Chatwin, the chief executive, the biggest beneficiary. He owns 28,958 shares and options over 111,482 more, giving him a total possible bonus of £1.2 million.

American Electric Power, a £4.8 billion group based in Columbus, Ohio, is trying to tempt Yorkshire into agreeing to an offer, despite past refusals by Mr Chatwin, to hold any "friendly talks".

The Americans are thought to want to proceed on an agreed basis only and may pull out if Stephen Littlechild, the electricity industry regulator, forces a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

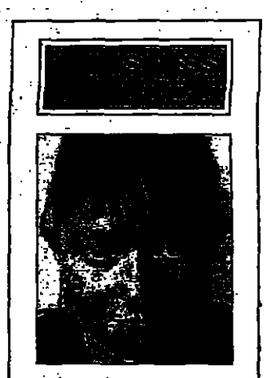
The City had not expected further bids for electricity companies before the general election because of the likelihood that Labour would bring in a windfall tax on profits made by privatised utilities.

However, US sources said they were sanguine about the prospect of a windfall tax, seeing this as not hurting the fundamental value of the sector.

The other worry was that a deal could not be completed before Labour came into power, bringing the prospect of bids being blocked. However, an agreed bid which is approved by Offer, the electricity regulatory body, would be hard to stop in the early days of a new administration.

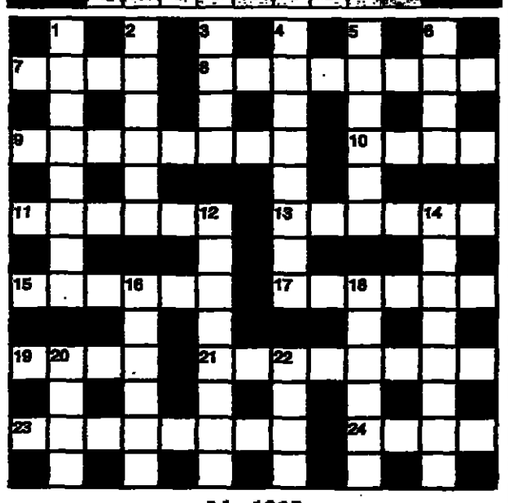
AEP is understood to have made approaches to Yorkshire late last week. The Yorkshire directors were studying the proposals yesterday and may make a statement today about the company's future.

If they accept the offer, the only independent Rec left would be Southern Electric. National Power tried to buy Southern in 1995, but Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade blocked the move.



JANET BUSH looks at the potential dynamics of Labour's relationship with the Bank of England.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1025

ACROSS

7 Free offering (4)
8 Chaotic; lawless (8)
9 Short, serious publication (8)
10 Without sensation (4)
11 Efficacious, forceful (6)
13 Take possession of (6)
15 Longest WW1 battle, on Meuse (6)
17 Spotted block for game (6)
19 Cot; steal (one's ideas) (4)
21 Majestic system of measures (8)
23 Determined (8)
24 Unwell (4)

DOWN

1 Oral exam (4,4)
2 Most important; wire fastener (6)
3 Cease to interest (4)
4 Conclusive remark; newest fashion (in) (4,4)
5 Attractive (view) (6)
6 Unyielding (4)
12 Ringing in ears (8)
14 Town of *P. Cezanne (anag.)* (8)
16 One owing money (6)
18 Swampy area (6)
20 Submerged ridge (4)
22 (Remove) rind (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1024

ACROSS: 1 War of nerves 8 Auden 9 Carnage 10 Fold 11 Diligent 13 Niggle 14 Galaxy 17 Underdog 19 Jump 22 Ammonia 23 Equal 24 Ratatouille

DOWN: 1 Wharf 2 Red flag 3 Punk 4 Euclid 5 Vertical 6 Slake 7 Vestry 12 Clarinet 13 Nougat 15 As usual 16 Mozart 18 Demur 20 Pulse 21 Beau

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French insurer to sell Equity & Law

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

AXA-UAP, the French insurer, is to kick off a rationalisation of its British holdings with a £1 billion auction for Equity & Law, the life assurer.

With British insurers much in demand the Equity & Law sale is expected to value the insurer at £1 billion, more than double the £467 million it was acquired for in 1987.

AXA-UAP also owns 60 per cent of the Sun Life group, which includes Provincial, the general insurer. A disposal of that stake, which Prudential has been eyeing, has not been ruled out by the French group. However, the process could be complicated by an earlier undertaking by UAP not to sell its stake until June at the earliest.

Companies expected to be attracted to Equity & Law include those set to lose out in the race to bag Scottish Amicable, the mutual insurer.

NatWest Group is considering bidding for Scottish Amicable. Despite widespread belief that it has signed a confidentiality agreement, it appears that NatWest is put off by the large price tag.

Others who have signed confidentiality agreements are: Fortis, a Dutch insurer; GE Capital, a subsidiary of America's General Electric; Australian Mutual Provident; Abbey National; and Prudential. Abbey National made the initial £1.4 billion bid. It was followed by a £1.9 million bid by Prudential a few days later.

None of the companies are committed to making a full bid, but detailed proposals must be submitted by Friday. After judging the bids, the board will recommend one offer to the 1.1 million with-profit policyholders who own the company.

Companies, page 42

Orange is ripe for expansion

Orange, the mobile phone company, is to launch a handset, developed with Motorola, to give users access to 50 countries by the end of the year, instead of ten. The Motorola MR601 is a dual-band phone switching between the GSM900 and GSM1800 digital networks.

Ultra contract

Ultra Electronics, the aerospace and defence group, has been awarded a £48 million contract for acoustic systems in British Aerospace's Nimrod 2000 maritime patrol aircraft.

Lonrho luxury

Lonrho said several parties are still interested in buying its Princess luxury hotels. It would not comment on talk that it has cancelled a deal that gave Prince al-Waleed bin Talal, a Saudi investor, exclusive negotiating rights.

London Scottish's multimillion game plan

Rugby club to play market

LONDON SCOTTISH, the rugby union team, will next month launch the first of a series of share issues leading to a flotation on the stock market (Jason Nissé writes).

The club, currently in the Courage first division, was taken over by Tony Tiarks, a Scottish-born investor living in Monaco, for £500,000 in the summer.

His plan is to raise £1 million from a private placing of around 35 per cent of its shares, cutting his own stake to 51 per cent, and leaving the club members with about 14 per cent. The members will then be offered shares under the Enterprise Investment Scheme to raise another £500,000. Finally Mr Tiarks plans to float the club, probably at the end of the 1998-99 season, on the stock market, raising another £4 million.

The money is initially being used to strengthen the team. Gavin Hastings, the former Scotland captain, has joined as a non-executive director and he is helping to recruit leading world-class players. London Scottish will redevelop the ground that it shares with Richmond Rugby Club, owned by Ashley Levitt of Winchester Commodities fame, into a 12,000-seat stadium with executive boxes and conference facilities.

Richard Yerbury, London Scottish's chief executive, believes the club can make a great deal of money out of merchandising and sponsorship, and marketing to Scottish expatriates. "Kicking English backside appeals worldwide," he said.

Forest bid dropped, page 28

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